

valuation shall be furnished the Commission by the County Commissioners. When such surveys and estimates are completed, the Commission shall give notice by publication in one or more newspapers published within the County, once a week for three (3) successive weeks and by handbills posted and circulated in the proposed sub-district which notice shall specify the boundaries of the sub-district and the urban service to be provided therein; together with the time and place of hearing to be held, at which hearing those present shall be informed of the contents of the engineering and financial surveys and the probable cost of providing the service in the sub-district including all fees and expenses. The Commission shall advise those present at the hearing whether on the basis of the engineering and financial surveys it believes the project is feasible from both engineering and financial standpoints. The finding of fact and the decision of the Commission shall be final unless within forty-five (45) days after the date of said hearing a petition signed by the owners of twenty percent (20%) of the assessed valuation of the land (excluding the improvements thereon) lying within the proposed service area is filed with the Commission requesting a vote on the proposal. Upon receipt of a petition signed by the owners of twenty percent (20%) of the assessed valuation of the land lying within the proposed sub-district requesting a vote on the proposal, the Commission shall set a time and place for the balloting, which place shall be within the proposed sub-district. The Commission shall give public notice of the time, place and hours of the balloting by publication in one or more newspapers published within said County, once a week for three (3) successive weeks and by notices posted in public places within the proposed sub-district. The owners (eliminating mortgagees and considering joint owners or owners in common as one person) of property lying within said proposed service area shall have the right to vote for or against the proposed service, and for the purpose of such balloting, each owner shall be entitled to cast one vote for each \$500.00 or majority fraction thereof, of assessed valuation of this land, excepting therefrom the assessed valuation of all improvements thereon, lying within the proposed sub-district and further provided that each owner shall be entitled to cast at least one vote and that each separately assessed parcel shall be a unit for voting purposes. If a majority of the votes cast at such balloting are in favor of the proposed urban service in the designated area, the Commission shall take the further action necessary to provide the service. If a majority of the votes cast are against the proposed urban service in the designated area, the Commission shall take no further action.

(b) *By Petition.*—Whenever twenty (20) property owners residing in any locality in Wicomico County or if there are not twenty (20) property owners in such locality, then twenty-five percent (25%) of the owners therein shall petition the Commission to provide a specified urban service or services within an area (the boundaries whereof shall be definitely stated in said petition), the Commission, if it approves, shall cause to be made a preliminary engineering survey of the project to determine the feasibility and probable cost of providing such area with the urban service or services requested in said petition. The Commission shall prepare without cost to the petitioners a preliminary estimate to determine the approximate cost of providing such facilities. The Commission shall also submit an