

*the benefit accruing thereto from the project or improvement for which assessed.*

*(3) When desirable, the affected property may be divided into different classes, to be charged different rates; but, except for this, any rate shall be uniform.*

*(4) All special assessment charges shall be levied by the County Commissioners by ordinance. Before levying any special assessment charges, the Commissioners shall hold a public hearing. The Administrative Assistant of the County Commissioners or the Director of the Department of Public Works shall cause notice to be given stating the nature and extent of the proposed project, the kind of materials to be used, the estimated cost of the project, the portion of the cost to be assessed, the number of installments in which the assessment may be paid, the method to be used in apportioning the cost, and the limits of the proposed area of assessment. The notice shall also state the time and place at which all persons interested, or their agents or attorneys, may appear before the County Commissioners and be heard concerning the proposed project and special assessment. Such notice shall be given by sending a copy thereof by certified mail to the owner of record of each parcel of property proposed to be assessed and to the person in whose name the property is assessed for taxation, and by publication of a copy of the notice at least once in a newspaper of general circulation in the county. The Administrative Assistant or the Director of the Department of Public Works shall present at the hearing a certificate of publication and a certificate of mailing of copies of the notices, which certificates shall be deemed proof of notice; but failure of any owner to receive the mailed copy shall not invalidate the proceedings. The date of hearing shall be set at least ten, and not more than thirty, days after the completion of publication and service of notice as provided in this section. Following the hearing, the County Commissioners, in their discretion, may vote to proceed with the project and may levy the special assessment by appropriate ordinance.*

*(5) Any interested person feeling aggrieved by the levying of any special assessment under the provisions of this section, has the right to appeal to the Circuit Court for Harford County within ten days after the levying of such assessment. The Court, sitting without a jury, may hear and determine whether the County Commissioners acted pursuant to the authority granted herein and whether the benefit assessments levied pursuant to the provisions of this subtitle are imposed according to law.*

*(6) Special assessments may be made payable in annual or more frequent installments over such period of time, not to exceed ten years, and in such manner as the County Commissioners may determine. The County Commissioners shall determine on what date installments are due and payable. Interest may be charged on installments at a rate to be determined by the County Commissioners.*

*(7) All special assessment installments are overdue six months after the date on which they become due and payable. All special assessments shall be liens on the property, subject only to State and County taxes and all overdue special assessments shall be collected in the same manner as county taxes or by suit at law.*

*(8) All special assessments shall be billed and collected by the Treasurer of Harford County.*