

the Commission shall construct any such system or extension thereof only after a public hearing held jointly by the Commission and the County Commissioners, after giving notice thereof in two newspapers of general circulation published in Harford County at least seven days prior to the hearing. At the hearing, plans and specifications for the proposed improvements shall be presented together with the estimated costs thereof and estimated revenues to be derived therefrom. *In any case where a public hearing is required, the Commission shall conduct the hearing and may proceed with the proposed improvements only after the County Commissioners, by at least a majority vote following the public hearing, have approved such proposal.* The Commission may divide the sanitary district into water, sewerage, and drainage subdistricts in such way as in its judgment will best serve the needs of the county, and promote convenience and economy of installation and operation, and permit the raising of revenues and apportionment of costs to those served on an equitable basis, and it is empowered to keep its books of account accordingly.

(b) If the residents of any unincorporated locality in the sanitary district make application for a water supply, sewerage, or drainage system, or part thereof, to be constructed in their locality, the Commission may require the applicants to bear the reasonable costs for any preliminary engineering studies that the Commission deems necessary to determine whether it is feasible to construct the improvements. Upon the receipt of such reasonable costs as the Commission determines to be necessary to conduct the studies, the Commission shall have the studies made and within a reasonable time thereafter advise the applicants of the results thereof, together with the Commission's determination with respect to the application.

(c) *Prior to construction, the Commission shall submit its plans for projects and their financing to the County Commissioners for their approval.*

(d) *The Commission, on or before the first day of July in each year, shall file with the County Commissioners a report on the activities of the Metropolitan Commission during the preceding year and shall include the plans and recommendations for the succeeding year.*

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For the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this subtitle the Commission may make a charge for every *drainage* sewer and water connection. The funds derived from such charges may be used for payment of principal and interest on bonds, accumulating funds for capital improvements, for acquisition and construction of water sewerage and drainage systems and the operation and maintenance thereof and for the purchase of equipment and supplies necessary to the operation of the Commission. Connection charges shall be established from time to time by the Commission subject to the approval of the County Commissioners. Such charges may be based upon such reasonable classifications as the Commissioners may determine and such classifications may vary within any water, sewer, or drainage system and among any such systems depending on any special circumstances which the Commission finds exists. The charges herein provided shall not be limited to the costs to the Commission for making such connections. The Commission is em-