

an attorney who has filed written appearance in the proceeding on behalf of the applicant.

17. Filing and effect of application; warrant; notice.

(a) *Priority and filing. After receipt of an application in proper form and payment of any fees and deposit required by law, it shall be filed by the Commissioner. All applications shall be considered for filing in the order received by the Commissioner; and after the filing of any application, no warrant for the survey or resurvey of any land described therein shall be issued upon any subsequent application, unless the first application is withdrawn or is not perfected within the time prescribed by this subtitle.*

(b) *Contents of warrant. When an application has been filed, the Commissioner shall issue his warrant to the surveyor named in the application. The warrant shall recite the name and address of the applicant, the date on which it was filed, the nature of the request made in the application, and a description of the alleged vacant land and/or the land to be resurveyed as described in the application. The warrant shall authorize and direct the surveyor to lay out and carefully survey the vacant land and/or to resurvey the land described therein. It shall enjoin the surveyor to prepare an accurate plat and description by metes and bounds of the alleged vacant land and/or land to be resurveyed; to run no lines within the lines of any former patent; to correct any errors in the original survey of any land to be resurveyed; to compute the area of any vacant land comprehended within the description and plat so prepared; and to return his certificate thereon to the Commissioner within six months from the date of the warrant. The warrant shall be signed by the Commissioner and his seal affixed thereto.*

(c) *Notice. At the time that the warrant is issued, the Commissioner shall give notice thereof by registered or certified mail, return receipt requested, to each adjoining landowner named in the application and to the Board of Public Works. Notice of the issuance of such warrant shall also be inserted by the applicant once each week for two successive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation published in any county in which any portion of the land described in the application is situated. Notices referred to in this subsection shall contain the information required as recitals in the warrant, the date of the issuance of the warrant, and the name and address of the surveyor to whom it was directed. A certificate of the publication of such notice shall be filed in the proceeding.*

18. Conduct of surveyor; certificate of survey or resurvey.

(a) *Execution of warrant; rules for conduct. After thirty days from the date of issuance of the warrant, but not less than two weeks from the date of the last insertion of the notice required by Section 17, the surveyor shall proceed to execute the warrant. The Commissioner may prescribe rules for the conduct of surveyors which are supplemental to the requirements of this subtitle.*

(b) *Certificate. After the surveyor has surveyed the alleged vacant land and/or the land to be resurveyed he shall prepare and verify by his affidavit two copies of a certificate, which shall be returned to the Commissioner within six months from the date of the issuance of the warrant. In any case the Commissioner may, in his discretion, extend the time for the return of the certificates upon*