

## 439M.

Whenever the plans and specifications for water supply, sewerage, or drainage systems or extensions thereof shall have been completed and the Commission has decided to proceed with construction, it shall, when required by this subtitle, by notice in one newspaper published in the county and such newspapers and technical press as it may deem proper, advertise for bids for the construction of the system or systems, in part or as a whole, as in its judgment may appear advisable. The contract shall be let to the lowest responsible bidder, or the Commission may reject any or all bids; and, if in its discretion the prices quoted are unreasonable or unbalanced, it may readvertise the work or any part of it or may do any part or all of the work by day labor; provided that at any time the Commission, in its discretion, may expend by day labor for construction [an amount not exceeding one thousand dollars (\$1,000.00) without advertising and receiving bids.] *and for supplies and equipment an amount not exceeding five thousand dollars (\$5,000.00) without advertising and receiving bids, upon the concurrence of the County Commissioners of Carroll County.* All such contracts shall be protected by such bonds, penalties, and conditions as the Commission may require, all of which shall be enforced in any court having jurisdiction.

## 439V.

For the purpose of providing funds for maintaining, repairing, and operating its water supply, sewerage, or drainage systems, and for its operation and other expenses, including proper depreciation allowances, and for interest on and the retirements of bonds as specified in this subtitle, the Commission may make the following charges:

(1) A water and sewer service charge. The rates for water and sewer service shall consist of a minimum or ready-to-serve charge which shall be based upon the size of the meter on the water connection leading to the property, and of a charge for water used, which shall be based upon the amount of water passing through the meter during the period between the last two readings. The meter shall be required to be placed on each water connection by and at the sole expense of the Commission, and it shall remain the property of the Commission. Such rates shall be classified within the county in such a manner as the Commission deems advisable; provided, however, that such classification shall be based upon the quantities of water used and shall be, insofar as possible, uniform throughout the county. If the Commission at any time shall not have meters available to install in all the properties in a given locality that are connected to the system, then a flat rate shall be charged on properties in which meters have not yet been installed, which rate shall be uniform in each sanitary system and based upon the ready-to-serve charge and the amount of water used. Bills for water and sewer charges shall be sent quarterly or semi-annually as the Commission may determine to each property served and shall be payable at the office of the Commission or such other place as the Commission may designate. Such charges shall be a lien upon the property served and collectible as elsewhere herein provided. If any bill remains unpaid after thirty (30) days from date of sending, the Commission, after written notice left upon the premises or mailed to the last known address of the