

DENTON

necessary to render him eligible to election or shall neglect or refuse to attend meetings of the commissioners for the space of three months, he shall forfeit such office, and such forfeiture shall be declared by a majority of the remaining commissioners, and the vacancy caused thereby shall be immediately filled as other vacancies; and if said commissioners shall neglect or refuse to declare such vacancy and to fill the same, then any tax paying inhabitant of said municipality being a legal voter therein, may file a petition in the Circuit Court for Caroline County against such officer, and the Court, or the Judge thereof if in vacation, shall pass an order requiring such officer to show cause why his office should not be vacated and the vacancy filled as provided, and such order shall be made returnable on the first Monday of the month next succeeding its passage, and a copy thereof shall be served on such officer; and if he shall fail to answer the same, then the said Court, or the Judge thereof if in vacation, shall hear and determine such matter ex parte; and if such officer shall answer the same, then the said Court, or the Judge thereof if in vacation, shall hear at once and determine the issue raised by such petition and answer and shall declare the office of the said respondent vacant and order the filling of the vacancy or shall dismiss the petition, as the proof may justify, and may award costs as may appear equitable and right.

(b) Terms of Office. An election shall be held on the fourth Monday of May, 1972 and of each year thereafter, between the hours of 12 o'clock noon and eight o'clock P.M., at such place in said town as shall be designated by the commissioners, at which one commissioner shall be elected for a term of five years from the first day of July next after election and until his successor is elected and qualified.

(c) Filing for office. Any person qualified to hold the office of commissioner, desiring to be a candidate for such office, shall file with the town Commissioners a written statement to that effect at least fifteen days prior to the date of the election at which he desires to be a candidate, or his name shall not be printed on the ballot.

(d) Election procedure. The commissioners shall give notice of such election by publication once in each week for two successive weeks in one or more newspapers published in Caroline County immediately preceding such election and by such other means as they may elect. Such notice shall specify the time and place of such election and the judges who shall officiate thereat and the names of the candidates, filed as aforesaid. The commissioners each year shall appoint and fix the pay of three judges