

with the jury; whereupon the jury shall reconsider their report with the exceptions and change the same as justice may require. The report as finally prepared shall be filed in court.

Section 1625. Appeals From Report.—Any person affected by the report shall have the right of an appeal to the court of common pleas, within thirty days after the report is filed, and the procedure on such appeal shall be the same as in actions of trespass.

Section 1626. Confirmation of Report.—At the end of the period allowed for an appeal, the report shall be absolutely confirmed by the court as to such awards or assessments from which no appeals have been taken.

Section 1627. When Vacation Proceedings not to Be Had.—No alley, lane, or passageway shall be vacated in any case where the vacating deprives any lot abutting thereon of the sole means of ingress or egress, otherwise than to or from the front line thereof; nor where it was created by grant or contract and not theretofore accepted by the public.

## ARTICLE XVII

### FINANCE AND TAXATION

Section 1701. Budget.—The board of township commissioners of townships shall each year, within sixty days after the first Monday of January, estimate the several amounts of money which will be required for the several specific purposes of township government and expenses during the current fiscal year, and by ordinance appropriate, out of the revenues available for the year, the specific sums required. The tax levied by the township authorities shall be fixed at such figure, within the limit fixed by law, as, with all other sources of revenue, will meet and cover said appropriations. The total appropriation shall not exceed the revenues available for the fiscal year. If the funds available from taxation and other sources shall be estimated to be in excess of the requirements of the current fiscal year, an appropriation may be made for the payment of township orders or indebtedness of the previous years.

Section 1702. Appropriations not to be Exceeded; Changes in Appropriations.—No work shall be hired to be done, no materials purchased, no contracts made, and no orders issued for the payment of any moneys, by the authorities of any township, in any amount which will cause the sums appropriated to specific purposes to be exceeded. No change in the purpose of the appropriations shall be made unless by an ordinance, which shall set out the reasons for and character of such change. If any work shall be done for or materials furnished to any township contrary to the provisions of this section,

the township commissioners are hereby prohibited from authorizing payment therefor as a moral obligation or otherwise, unless ordered or directed so to do by the court of common pleas or the court of quarter sessions of the county in which such township is situate.

Section 1703. Certain Contracts, Et Cetera, Invalid.—No contracts, hirings, or purchases made, or orders or warrants issued, not provided for by an appropriation by the township commissioners as is required by law, or which would cause any appropriation to be exceeded, shall be valid.

Section 1704. Power to Create Indebtedness; Sinking Fund; Temporary Indebtedness.—The board of township commissioners may, by ordinance, borrow money and issue evidences of indebtedness therefor to the extent, and in the manner, in which municipal districts are now authorized to incur or increase the same, for the purpose of permanent improvements, but the total indebtedness so created shall not exceed two per centum of the county valuation of the property within the township without the assent of the electors of the township. The rate of interest on such indebtedness shall not exceed six per centum per annum. In authorizing the issue of obligations or securities for such loans, the township commissioners shall provide that moneys subsequently derived from assessments upon parties benefited by such improvements shall be deposited in the sinking fund for the payment of the principal and interest of said obligations or securities.

Whenever the township funds have been exhausted, the township commissioners may borrow, on the credit of the township, money in anticipation of taxes levied and to be collected for the current fiscal year, and issue a certificate of indebtedness payable on a certain date not exceeding one year from the date of issue, to the end that work may be performed in proper season.

Section 1705. Sinking Fund; Regulations and Investments.—It shall be the duty of the board of commissioners to cause accounts of the sinking fund and other accounts relating to the indebtedness of the township to be kept, and to see to the proper application and superintend the investment of moneys therein in accordance with law. The commissioners shall meet as often as may be necessary, and keep a record of the proceedings. The board of commissioners shall not direct the investment of any moneys to the credit of the sinking fund, except in loans of the township, the loans of the Commonwealth, or the loans of the United States, and the income derived from such investments or on any bank balances credited to the sinking fund shall be credited and applied only to the sinking fund.

Section 1706. Indebtedness and Orders of Previous Years.—No orders or indebtedness of any previous

years shall be paid out of the funds of any fiscal year, unless the funds available from taxation and other sources shall be estimated to be in excess of requirements for the current fiscal year, in which case an appropriation may be made for such purpose to the extent of such excess, or unless, after the close of the fiscal year, it shall be ascertained that the funds appropriated and available therefor are in excess of the amount required, in which case such surplus may be applied to such former orders of indebtedness.

Section 1707. Sale of Securities.—When any township shall borrow money and issue bonds or other securities therefor, except in the case of the giving of notes for temporary loans as may be authorized by law, the commissioners shall sell the same to the highest bidder after public notice by advertisement, once a week for three weeks, in at least one newspaper of general circulation published in the county in which such township shall be situated. No bid for such bonds or securities at less than their par value shall be accepted. Where bonds and securities shall be advertised for sale, as provided in this section, and no bids have been received, then it shall be lawful for such township to sell the same at private sale for not less than par and accrued interest.

Section 1708. Disbursements to Pay Indebtedness.—All disbursements in discharge of township indebtedness duly incurred shall be made by the township treasurer or his deputy, by virtue of warrants or orders drawn on him by the order of the board of township commissioners, signed by the president or vice president and attested to by the secretary or assistant secretary of the board. The board shall prescribe, by ordinance, the manner in which bills for township indebtedness shall be approved for payment.

Section 1709. Tax Levies.—The board of township commissioners may levy taxes upon all property and upon all occupations within the township made taxable for township purposes, as ascertained by the valuation for county purposes made by the assessors of the several counties of this Commonwealth for the year for which the township taxes are levied, for the purposes and at the rate hereinafter specified: Provided, however, That such valuation shall be subject to correction by the county commissioners of the several counties, and to appeal by the taxable persons in accordance with existing laws.

One. An annual tax for general township purposes, not exceeding ten mills, unless the board of township commissioners by majority action shall, upon due cause shown by resolution, petition the court of quarter sessions, in which case the court may order a rate of not more than five mills additional to be levied: Further