

358.40 Dissolution.

1. After three years from the establishment of a sanitary sewer district, a petition may be filed in the office of the county auditor, addressed to the board of supervisors, signed by a majority of persons owning land in the district and who in aggregate own at least sixty percent of the land in the district. The petition shall include the above facts and recite each of the following:

- a. That more than three years has passed since the date of the election which established the district.
- b. That there are no bonds or other evidences of indebtedness outstanding against the district, or if there is indebtedness, the petition shall contain a plan of dissolution which makes adequate provisions for payment of the indebtedness.
- c. That a construction contract has not been let or work done on any improvements in the district or if either has occurred, the petition shall contain a plan of dissolution which makes adequate provisions for payment of the contract price or for the work.

2. All costs and expenses of the district shall be assessed against the district before dissolution by the levy of an annual tax necessary to accomplish payment, but the levy shall not exceed the rate provided in this section.

3. The board shall examine the petition at its next meeting after its filing or within twenty days of the filing, whichever date is earlier. Within ten days of the meeting, the board shall publish notice of the petition and the date, time, and place of the meeting at which time the board proposes to take action on the petition. The notice shall be published in a newspaper of general circulation published in the district and, if no newspaper is published within the district, in a newspaper published in the county in which the major part of the district is located. At the board's meeting, or subsequent meetings as necessary, if the petition is found to comply with the requirements of this section and the board of trustees consents by majority vote, the board of supervisors may provide for payment as requested or modify the method of payment of costs and expenses.

4. If the board decides that dissolution is warranted for the best interest of the public, it shall publish a notice in a newspaper of general circulation published in the district or, if no newspaper is published in the district, in a newspaper published in the county in which the major part of the district is located and give notice by mail to all known claimants or creditors of the district that it will receive and adjudicate claims against the district for four months from the date the notice is published and shall levy an annual tax as necessary against all property in the district for the number of years required to pay all claims allowed. However, the annual tax levied under this subsection shall not exceed four dollars per thousand dollars of assessed valuation of the taxable property within the district at the time of dissolution. The levy shall be made in the same manner as provided in section 76.2. After the board makes a specific finding that all indebtedness, costs, and expenses have been paid or levies approved for their payment, the board shall dissolve the district by resolution entered upon its records. The dissolution order shall be noted by the auditor on the county records, showing the date when the dissolution became effective.

5. The records of a dissolved district including, but not limited to, copies of all engineering files and work undertaken by engineers of a dissolved district, shall be deposited with the county auditor of the county designated by the board. Any remaining balances shall be deposited in the general fund of the county designated by the board. All other assets of the dissolved district shall become, by dissolution, assets of the county.

6. An action shall not be commenced to contest action of the board of supervisors under this section in adjudicating claims, providing for the levy of a tax, or dissolving the district unless it is brought within thirty days of the entry of the dissolution order on the county record.

