

CHAPTER 358

SANITARY DISTRICTS

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GENERAL PROVISIONS

358.1 Definitions.

As used in this chapter, unless the context otherwise requires, “book”, “list”, “record”, or “schedule” kept by a county auditor, assessor, treasurer, recorder, sheriff, or other county officer means the county system as defined in section 445.1.

2000 Acts, ch 1148, §1

358.1A Incorporation.

If an area of territory is so situated that the construction, maintenance, and operation of a trunk sewer system and of a plant or plants for the treatment of sewage and the maintenance of one or more outlets for the drainage of it, after having been so treated, will be conducive to the public health, comfort, convenience, or welfare, the area may be incorporated as a sanitary district in the manner set forth in this chapter. Areas of contiguous or noncontiguous territory may be incorporated in a sanitary district.

[C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §358.1]

92 Acts, ch 1204, §15

C2001, §358.1A

358.1B Combined water and sanitary district.

1. The board of supervisors of a county or major part of a county in which a proposed combined water and sanitary district will be located may proceed with the establishment, operation, or dissolution of a combined water and sanitary district as provided in section 357.1B.

2. For the purpose of establishing, operating, or dissolving a combined water and sanitary district under chapter 357 and this chapter, the term “*sanitary district*” includes combined water and sanitary district where applicable.

92 Acts, ch 1204, §16

C93, §358.1A

C2001, §358.1B

358.2 Petition — deposit.

1. Any twenty-five or more eligible electors resident within the limits of any proposed sanitary district may file a petition in the office of the county auditor of the county in which the proposed sanitary district, or the major portion thereof, is located, requesting that there be submitted to the registered voters of such proposed district the question whether the territory within the boundaries of such proposed district shall be organized as a sanitary district under this chapter. Such petition shall be addressed to the board of supervisors of the county wherein it is filed and shall set forth:

a. An intelligible description of the boundaries of the territory to be embraced in such district.

b. The name of such proposed sanitary district.

c. That the public health, comfort, convenience, or welfare will be promoted by the establishment of such sanitary district.

d. The signatures of the petitioners.

2. No territory shall be included within more than one sanitary district organized under this chapter, and if any proposed sanitary district shall fail to receive a majority of votes cast at any election thereon as hereinafter provided, no petition shall be filed for establishment of such a sanitary district within one year from the date of such previous election.

3. a. There shall be filed with the petition a bond with sureties approved by the auditor, or a certified check, credit union certified share draft or cash in an amount sufficient for the payment of all costs and expenses incurred in the proceedings if the district is not finally established.

b. No preliminary expense shall be incurred before the establishment of the proposed sanitary district by the board in excess of the amount of bond filed by the petitioners. In case it is necessary to incur any expense in addition to the amount of the bond, the board of supervisors shall require the filing of an additional security until the additional bond is filed in sufficient amount to cover the expense.

[C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §358.2]

84 Acts, ch 1055, §8; 85 Acts, ch 67, §43; 95 Acts, ch 67, §53; 2010 Acts, ch 1061, §145

[T] Section amended

358.3 Jurisdiction — decisions — records.

The board of supervisors of the county in which the proposed sanitary district, or the major portion thereof, is located shall have jurisdiction of the proceedings on said petition as herein provided, and the decision of a majority of the members of said board shall be necessary for adoption. All orders of the board made hereunder shall be spread at length upon the records of the proceedings of the board of supervisors, but need not be published under section 349.16.

[C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §358.3]

358.4 Date and notice of hearing.

1. The board of supervisors to which the petition is addressed, at its next meeting, shall set the time and place for a hearing on the petition. The board shall direct the county auditor in whose office the petition is filed to cause notice to be given to all persons whom it may concern, without naming them, of the pendency and content of the petition, by publication of a notice as provided in section 331.305. Proof of giving the notice shall be made by affidavit of the publisher and the proof shall be on file with the county auditor at the time the hearing begins. The notice of hearing shall be directed to all persons it may concern, and shall state:

a. That a petition has been filed with the county auditor of the county, naming it, for establishment of a proposed sanitary district, and the name of the proposed district.

b. An intelligible description of the boundaries of the territory to be embraced in the district.

c. The date, hour, and the place where the petition will come on for hearing before the board of supervisors of the named county.

d. That the board of supervisors will fix and determine the boundaries of the proposed district as described in the petition or otherwise, and for that purpose may alter and amend the petition. At the hearing all interested persons shall have an opportunity to be heard on the location and boundaries of the proposed district and to make suggestions regarding the location and boundaries.

2. For a district which does not include land within a city, copy of the notice shall also be sent by mail to each owner, without naming them, of each tract of land or lot within the proposed district as shown by the transfer books of the auditor's office. The mailings shall be to the last known mailing address unless there is on file an affidavit of the auditor or of a person designated by the board to make the necessary investigation, stating that a mailing address is not known and that diligent inquiry has been made to ascertain it. The copy of notice shall be mailed no less than twenty days before the day set for hearing and proof of service shall be by affidavit of the auditor. The proofs of service required by this subsection shall be on file at the time the hearing begins.

3. In lieu of the mailing to the last known address a person owning land affected by a proposed district may file with the county auditor an instrument in writing designating the address for the mailing. This designation when filed is effective for five years and applies to all proceedings under this chapter. The person making the designation may change the address in the same manner as the original designation is made.

4. In lieu of publication, personal service of the notice may be made upon an owner of land in the proposed district in the manner and for the time required for service of original notices in the district court. Proof of the service shall be on file with the auditor on the date of the hearing.

[C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §358.4]

84 Acts, ch 1051, §1; 87 Acts, ch 43, §10

358.5 Hearing of petition and order.

The board of supervisors to whom the petition is addressed shall preside at the hearing provided for in section 358.4 and shall continue the hearing in session, with adjournments from day to day, if necessary, until completed, without being required to give any further notice of the hearing. Proof of the residences and qualifications of the petitioners as eligible electors shall be made by affidavit or otherwise as the board may direct. The board may consider the boundaries of a proposed sanitary district, whether they shall be as described in the petition or otherwise, and for that purpose may alter and amend the petition and limit or change the boundaries of the proposed district as stated in the petition. The board shall adjust the boundaries of a proposed district as needed to exclude land that has no reasonable likelihood of benefit from inclusion in the proposed district. The boundaries of a proposed district shall not be changed to incorporate property not included in the original petition and published notice until the owner of the property is given notice of inclusion as on the original hearing. All persons in the proposed district shall have an opportunity to be heard regarding the location and boundaries of the proposed district and to make suggestions regarding the location and boundaries. The board of supervisors, after hearing the statements, evidence and suggestions made and offered at the hearing, shall enter an order fixing and determining the limits and boundaries of the proposed district and directing that an election be held for the purpose of submitting to the registered voters residing within the boundaries of the proposed district the question of organization and establishment of the proposed sanitary district as determined by the board of supervisors. The order shall fix a date for the election not more than sixty days after the date of the order.

However, a majority of the landowners, owning in the aggregate more than seventy percent of the total land in the proposed district, may file a written remonstrance against the proposed

district at or before the time fixed for the hearing on the proposed district with the county auditor. If the remonstrance is filed, the board of supervisors shall discontinue all further proceedings on the proposed district and charge the costs incurred to date relating to the establishment of the proposed district.

[C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §358.5]

84 Acts, ch 1051, §2; 95 Acts, ch 67, §53; 98 Acts, ch 1139, §1

358.6 Notice of election.

In its order for the election the board of supervisors shall direct the county commissioner of elections of the county in which the petition is filed to cause notice of the election to be given at least thirty days before the date of election by publication of the notice as provided in section 331.305. The notice shall state the time and place of holding the election and the hours when the polls will open and close, the purpose of the election, with the name of the proposed sanitary district and a description of the boundaries of it, and shall set forth briefly the limits of each voting precinct and the location of the polling places. Proof of publication shall be made in the manner provided in section 358.4 and filed with the county auditor.

[C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §358.6]

92 Acts, ch 1204, §17

358.7 Election.

1. Each registered voter resident within such proposed sanitary district shall have the right to cast a ballot at such election and no person shall vote in any precinct but that of the person's residence. Ballots at such election shall be in substantially the following form, to wit:

For Sanitary District	☐
Against Sanitary District	☐

2. The board of supervisors shall cause a statement of the result of such election to be spread upon the records of the county auditor. If a majority of the votes cast upon the question of incorporation of the proposed sanitary district shall be in favor of the proposed sanitary district, such proposed sanitary district shall thenceforth be deemed an organized sanitary district under this chapter and established as conducive to the public health, comfort, convenience, and welfare.

[C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §358.7]

94 Acts, ch 1169, §64; 2010 Acts, ch 1061, §146

[T] Section amended

358.8 Expenses and costs of election.

The election held pursuant to this chapter shall be conducted by the county commissioner of elections. All expenses incurred in carrying out sections 358.4 and 358.5 of this chapter, together with the costs of the election, as determined by the county commissioner of elections, shall be paid by those who will be benefited by the proposed sanitary district. If the district is not established, the expenses and costs shall be collected upon the bond or bonds of the petitioners.

[C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §358.8]

92 Acts, ch 1204, §18; 2009 Acts, ch 133, §128

358.9 Selection of trustees — term of office.

1. a. At the election provided for in section 358.7, the names of candidates for trustee of the district shall be written by the voters on blank ballots without formal nomination, and the board of supervisors which had jurisdiction of the proceedings for establishment of the sanitary district, together with the board of supervisors of any other county in which any part of the district is located, shall appoint three trustees from among the five persons receiving the greatest number of votes as trustees of the district. One of the trustees shall be designated to serve a term expiring on the first day of January which is not a Sunday or legal holiday

following the next general election, one to serve a term expiring on the first day of January which is not a Sunday or legal holiday two years later, and one to serve a term expiring on the first day of January which is not a Sunday or legal holiday four years later. Thereafter, each term shall be for a term of years established by the board of supervisors, not less than three years or more than six years. Successors to trustees shall be elected by special election or at a special meeting of the board of trustees called for that purpose. For each special election called after the initial election, a candidate for office of trustee shall be nominated by a personal affidavit of the candidate or by petition of at least ten eligible electors of the district and the candidate's personal affidavit, which shall be filed with the county commissioner of elections at least twenty-five days before the date of the election. The form of the candidate's affidavit shall be substantially the same as provided in section 45.3.

b. In lieu of a special election, successors to trustees shall be elected at a special meeting of the board of trustees called for that purpose. Upon its own motion, the board of trustees may, or upon petition of landowners owning more than fifty percent of the total land in the district, shall, call a special meeting of the residents of the district to elect successors to trustees of the board. Notice of the meeting shall be given at least ten days before the date of the meeting by publication of the notice in a newspaper of general circulation in the district. The notice shall state the date, times, and location of the meeting and that the meeting is called for the purpose of electing one or more trustees to the board.

2. If the petition to establish a sanitary district requests a board of trustees of five members, the board of supervisors shall select five trustees from among the seven persons receiving the highest number of votes at the initial election. Two trustees shall be designated to serve a term expiring on the first day of January which is not a Sunday or legal holiday following the next general election, two trustees to serve a term expiring on the first day of January which is not a Sunday or legal holiday two years later, and one to serve a term expiring on the first day of January which is not a Sunday or holiday four years later. Thereafter, each term shall be for a term of years established by the board of supervisors, not less than three years or more than six years. Successors to a five-member board selected under this subsection shall be chosen by election and after the initial election, a candidate for office of trustee shall be nominated by a personal affidavit of the candidate or by petition of at least ten eligible electors of the district and the candidate's personal affidavit, which shall be filed with the commissioner of county elections at least sixty-nine days before the date of the general election. The form of the candidate's affidavit shall be substantially as provided in section 45.3.

3. Upon request of a three-member board of trustees or petition of the number of eligible electors of the district equal to at least five percent of the residents of the district filed at least ninety days before the next general election, the board of supervisors shall provide for the election of a five-member board of trustees with staggered terms of office of not more than six years. The five-member board of trustees shall become effective on the first day of January which is not a Sunday or legal holiday after that general election. The board of trustees or a petition of the number of eligible electors of the district equal to at least five percent of the residents of the district may also request the board of supervisors to implement a plan to reduce the number of trustees from five to three. The board of supervisors shall allow incumbent trustees to serve their unexpired terms of office.

4. Vacancies in the office of trustee of a sanitary district shall be filled by the remaining members of the board for the period until a successor is chosen in the manner prescribed by this section or by section 69.12, whichever is applicable.

[C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §358.9; 82 Acts, ch 1199, §66, 96]

84 Acts, ch 1009, §1; 84 Acts, ch 1051, §3; 85 Acts, ch 135, §2; 92 Acts, ch 1204, §19, 20; 93 Acts, ch 24, §1; 94 Acts, ch 1045, §1; 2009 Acts, ch 41, §121

358.10 Trustee's bond.

Each trustee shall, before entering upon the duties of office, execute a bond payable to the district, with security to be approved by the board of supervisors which had jurisdiction

of the petition for establishment of the district, in such form and amount as said board of supervisors may determine, which bond shall be filed with the county auditor of said county.

[C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §358.10]

358.11 Sanitary district to be a body corporate.

Each sanitary district organized under this chapter shall be a body corporate and politic, with the name and style under which it was organized, and by such name and style may sue and be sued, contract and be contracted with, acquire and hold real and personal property necessary for corporate purposes, adopt a corporate seal and alter the same at pleasure, and exercise all the powers conferred in this chapter.

All courts of this state shall take judicial notice of the existence of sanitary districts organized hereunder.

[C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §358.11]

358.12 Board of trustees — powers.

The trustees elected as provided in section 358.9 constitute a board of trustees for the district by which they are elected. The board of trustees is the corporate authority of the sanitary district and shall manage and control the affairs and property of the district. A majority of the board of trustees shall constitute a quorum, but a smaller number may adjourn from day to day. The board of trustees shall elect a president, a clerk, and a treasurer from its membership and may employ employees as necessary, who shall hold their employment during the pleasure of the board. The board shall prescribe the duties and fix the compensation of all employees of the sanitary district and the amount of bond to be filed by the treasurer of the district and by any employee for whom the board may require bond. The members of the board of trustees shall receive a per diem of one hundred dollars for attendance at a meeting of the board or while otherwise engaged in official duties, but the total per diem for each member shall not exceed two thousand four hundred dollars for a fiscal year. However, the board of trustees, by resolution, may establish for its members a lower rate of pay than is fixed by this section. The members of the board shall also be reimbursed for their travel and other necessary expenses incurred in performing their official duties. Travel expenses are reimbursable at the rate specified in section 70A.9.

The board of trustees may adopt the necessary ordinances, resolutions, rules and regulations for the proper management and conduct of the business of the board of trustees and the corporation and for carrying out the purposes for which the sanitary district is formed.

[C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §358.12]

2006 Acts, ch 1038, §1

358.13 Ordinances — publication or posting — time of taking effect.

All ordinances, resolutions, orders, rules, and regulations adopted by the board take effect from and after their adoption and publication. The publication shall be by one publication in a newspaper of general circulation in the district, by posting copies in three public places within the district, or by other steps necessary to inform the public.

[C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §358.13]

87 Acts, ch 197, §1

358.14 Proof of ordinances.

All ordinances, resolutions, orders, rules and regulations, and the date when same became effective, may be proven by the certificate of the clerk, under the seal of the corporation, if one has been adopted, and when printed in book or pamphlet form and purporting to be published by the board of trustees such book or pamphlet shall be received as evidence of the passage and legal publication or posting thereof as of the dates mentioned therein, in all courts and places, without further proof.

[C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §358.14]

358.15 Personal interest in contracts.

No trustee of such district shall be directly or indirectly interested in any contract, work, or business of the district, or in the sale of any article the expense, price, or consideration of which is paid by such district; nor in the purchase of any real estate or other property belonging to the district, or which shall be sold for taxes or assessments, or by virtue of legal process at the suit of said district; provided, that nothing herein shall be construed as prohibiting the selection of any person as trustee because of the person's ownership of real estate in the district or because the person is a taxpayer in the district.

[C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §358.15]

358.16 Power to provide for sewage disposal.

1. a. The board of trustees of any sanitary district organized under this chapter shall have power to provide for the disposal of the sewage thereof, including the sewage and drainage of any city or village within the boundaries of such district; to acquire, lay out, locate, establish, construct, maintain, and operate one or more drains, conduits, treatment plants, disposal plants, pumping plants, works, ditches, channels, and outlets of such capacity and character as may be required for the treatment, carrying off, and disposal of the sewage and industrial wastes and other drainage incidental thereto of such district; to lay out, establish, construct, maintain, and operate all such adjuncts, additions, auxiliary improvements, and works as may be necessary or proper for accomplishment of the purposes intended, and to procure supplies of water for operating, diluting, and flushing purposes; to maintain, repair, change, enlarge, and add to such facilities, improvements, and works as may be necessary or proper to meet the future requirements for the purposes aforesaid; and, when necessary for such purposes, any such facilities, improvements, and works and the maintenance and operation thereof may extend beyond the limits of such district, and the rights and powers of said board of trustees in respect thereto shall be the same as if located within said district, provided, no taxes shall be levied upon any property outside of such district; and provided further, that the district shall be liable for all damages sustained beyond its limits in consequence of any work or improvement authorized hereunder.

b. The board of trustees, however, may upon such petition of property owners representing at least twenty-five percent of the valuation of property not included within the district as constituted which seeks benefit from the operation of such sanitary district, include such property and the area involved within the limits of such sanitary district, and such added areas shall be subject to the same taxation as other portions of the district.

c. Nothing contained herein shall be construed to authorize or empower such board of trustees to operate a system of waterworks for the purpose of furnishing water to the inhabitants of the district, or to construct, maintain, or operate local municipal sewerage facilities, or to deprive municipalities within the district of their powers to construct and operate sewers for local purposes within their limits.

d. The board of trustees of such sanitary district may, however, upon petition of the council or governing body of any incorporated city within the sanitary district, contract with such city to undertake the operation of local municipal sewage facilities as part of the functioning of the sanitary district and make an agreement with such municipality for the levying of additional sewer or sewage disposal taxes, which taxes shall be levied by the municipality as now provided by law.

2. a. The board of trustees may require connection to the sanitary sewer system established, maintained, or operated by the district from any adjacent property within the district, and require the installation of sanitary toilets or other sanitary sewage facilities and removal of other toilet and other sewage facilities on the property. However, the board of trustees shall not regulate, restrict the use, or require the connection of a private sewage disposal facility previously approved by the county board of health pursuant to section 455B.172 without the prior approval of that board of health.

b. If the property owner does not perform an action required under paragraph "a" within a reasonable time after notice and hearing, the board of trustees may perform the required action and assess the costs of the action against the property for collection in the same manner as a property tax. The notice shall state the nature of the action and the time within which

the action is required to be performed by the property owner, state the date, time, and place where the property owner will be heard by the board of trustees for the purpose of stating why the intended action should not be required, and shall be given by certified mail to the property owner as shown on the records of the county auditor not less than four nor more than twenty days before the date of the hearing.

c. However, in the event of an emergency when the delay of notice and hearing might cause serious loss or injury to persons or property within the district, the board of trustees may perform any action which may be required under this section without prior notice and hearing, and assess the cost as provided in this section, following notice to the property owner and hearing in the time and manner provided in paragraph “b”. In that event the board of trustees shall, by resolution, make a finding of the necessity to institute emergency proceedings under this section, and shall procure a certificate from a competent licensed professional engineer or registered architect certifying that emergency action is necessary.

3. If any amount assessed against property pursuant to this section will exceed one hundred dollars, the board of trustees may permit the assessment to be paid in up to ten annual installments, in the manner and with the same interest rates as provided for assessments against benefited property under chapter 384, division IV.

4. An assessment levied pursuant to this section, including all interest and penalties, is a lien against the property with respect to which action was taken from the date of filing the schedule of assessments until the assessment is paid. Assessments have equal precedence with ordinary taxes and are not divested by judicial sale.

5. The procedures for making and levying an assessment pursuant to this section and for an appeal of the assessment are the same procedures as provided in sections 384.59 through 384.67 and sections 384.72 through 384.75, except that any notice required in those sections to be published in a newspaper may be sent by certified mail to the owner of the property to be assessed as shown on the records of the county auditor in lieu of the publication. The references in those sections to the city council are applicable to the board of trustees.

[C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §358.16]

87 Acts, ch 197, §2; 2007 Acts, ch 126, §59; 2009 Acts, ch 72, §13, 14; 2010 Acts, ch 1069, §123

[T] Subsections 1 and 2 amended

358.17 Power to acquire and dispose of property.

Any sanitary district organized under this chapter may acquire by purchase, condemnation, or otherwise, any and all real and personal property, rights-of-way and privileges, either within or without its corporate limits, required for its corporate purposes. Condemnation proceedings shall be conducted in the same manner, as near as may be, as provided for condemnation by counties under the laws of Iowa. Said sanitary districts shall have power to sell, convey, or otherwise dispose of any of the properties belonging to them when no longer required for their purposes.

[C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §358.17]

358.18 Taxes — power to levy — tax sales.

The board of trustees of any sanitary district organized under this chapter shall have the power by ordinance to levy annually for the purpose of paying the administrative costs of such district, or for the payment of deficiencies in special assessments, or for both, a tax upon property within the territorial limits of such sanitary district not exceeding fifty-four cents per thousand dollars of the adjusted taxable valuation of the property within such district for the preceding fiscal year.

All taxes thus levied by the board shall be certified by the clerk on or before March 1 to the county auditor of each county wherein any of the property included within the territorial limits of the sanitary district is located, and shall be placed upon the tax list for the current fiscal year by the auditor or auditors. The county treasurer, or treasurers, of more than one county, shall collect all taxes so levied in the same manner as other taxes, and when delinquent the taxes shall draw the same interest. All taxes levied and collected shall be paid over by the officer collecting the taxes to the treasurer of the sanitary district.

Sales for delinquent taxes owing to such sanitary district shall be made at the same time and in the same manner as such sales are made for other taxes, and all provisions of the law of this state relating to the sale of property for delinquent taxes shall be applicable, so far as may be, to such sales.

[C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §358.18]

93 Acts, ch 73, §3

[P] Collection of taxes, see chapter 445

[P] Sales for taxes, see chapter 446

358.19 Records and disbursements.

The clerk of each sanitary district shall keep a record of all the proceedings and actions of the trustees. The treasurer shall receive, collect, and disburse all moneys belonging to the district, and no claim shall be paid or disbursement made until it has been duly audited by the board of trustees.

[C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §358.19]

358.20 Rentals and charges.

1. Any sanitary district may by ordinance establish just and equitable rates, charges, or rentals for the utilities and services furnished by the district to be paid to the district by every person, firm, or corporation whose premises are served by a connection to the utilities and services directly or indirectly. The rates, charges, or rentals, as near as may be in the judgment of the board of trustees of the district, shall be equitable and in proportion to the services rendered and the cost of the services, and taking into consideration in the case of the premises the quantity of sewage produced thereby and its concentration, strength, and pollution qualities. The board of trustees may change the rates, charges, or rentals from time to time as it may deem advisable, and by ordinance may provide for collection. The board may contract with any municipality within the district, whereby the municipality may collect or assist in collecting any of the rates, charges, or rentals, whether in conjunction with water rentals or otherwise, and the municipality may undertake the collection and render the service. The board of trustees may also contract pursuant to chapter 28E with one or more city utilities or combined utility systems, including city utilities established pursuant to chapter 388, for joint billing or collection, or both, of combined service accounts for sanitary district services and utility services, and the contracts may provide for the discontinuance of one or more of the sanitary district services or water utility services if a delinquency occurs in the payment of any charges billed under a combined service account. The rates, charges, or rentals, if not paid when due, shall constitute a lien upon the real property served by a connection. The lien shall have equal precedence with ordinary taxes, may be certified to the county treasurer and collected in the same manner as taxes, and is not divested by a judicial sale.

2. Sewer rentals, charges, or rates may supplant or replace, in whole or in part, any monetary levy of taxes which may be, or have been, authorized by the board of trustees for any of the following purposes:

a. To meet interest and principal payments on bonds legally authorized for the financing of sanitary utilities in any manner.

b. To pay costs of the construction, maintenance, or repair of such sanitary facilities or utilities, including payments to be made under any contract between municipalities for either the joint use of sewerage or sewage facilities, or for the use by one municipality of all or a part of the sewerage or sewer system of another municipality.

3. When a sewer rental ordinance has been passed and put into effect, prior ordinances or resolutions providing for monetary levy of taxes against real and personal property for such purposes, or the portion thereof replaced, may be repealed.

[C31, 35, §6066-d7; C39, **§6066.21**; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, §358.20, 393.7; C75, 77, 79, 81, §358.20]

87 Acts, ch 197, §3; 92 Acts, ch 1047, §1; 97 Acts, ch 62, §1; 2009 Acts, ch 41, §263

[P] Collection of taxes, see chapter 445

358.21 Debt limit — borrowing — bonds — purposes.

Any sanitary district organized hereunder may borrow money for its corporate purposes, but shall not become indebted in any manner or for any purpose to an amount in the aggregate exceeding five percent on the value of the taxable property within such district, to be ascertained by the last state and county tax lists previous to the incurring of such indebtedness. Indebtedness within this constitutional limit shall not include the indebtedness of any other municipal corporation located wholly or partly within the boundaries of such sanitary district.

Subject only to this debt limitation, any such sanitary district organized hereunder shall have and it is hereby vested with all of the same powers to issue bonds, including both general obligation and revenue bonds, which cities now or may hereafter have under the laws of this state. In the application of such laws to this chapter, the words used in any such laws referring to municipal corporations or to cities shall be held to include sanitary districts organized under this chapter, the words “council” or “city council” shall be held to include the board of trustees of a sanitary district; the words “mayor” and “clerk” shall be held to include the president and clerk of any such board of trustees or sanitary district; and like construction shall be given to any other words in such laws where required to permit the exercise of such powers by sanitary districts.

Any and all bonds issued hereunder shall be signed by the president of the board of trustees and attested by the clerk, with the seal of the district, if any, affixed, and interest coupons attached thereto shall be attested by the signature of the clerk.

The proceeds of any bond issue made under the provisions of this section shall be used only for the purpose of acquiring, locating, laying out, establishing and construction of drainage facilities, conduits, treatment plants, pumping plants, works, ditches, channels and outlets of such capacity and character as may be required for the treatment, carrying off and disposal of the sewage and industrial wastes and other drainage incidental thereto of such district, or to repair, change, enlarge and add to such facilities as may be necessary or proper to meet the requirements present and future for the purposes aforesaid. Proceeds from such bond issue may also be used for the payment of special assessment deficiencies. Said bonds shall be payable in not more than forty annual installments and with interest at a rate not exceeding that permitted by chapter 74A, and shall be made payable at such place and be of such form as the board of trustees shall by resolution designate. Any sanitary district issuing bonds as authorized in this section is hereby granted authority to pledge the future avails of a tax levy to the payment of the principal and interest of such bonds after the same come due, and the power to impose and certify said levy is hereby granted to the trustees of sanitary districts organized under the provisions of this chapter.

[C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §358.21]

358.22 Special assessments and connection fees.

The board of trustees of a sanitary district may provide for payment of all or any portion of the costs of acquiring, locating, laying out, constructing, reconstructing, repairing, changing, enlarging, or extending conduits, ditches, channels, outlets, drains, sewers, laterals, treatment plants, pumping plants, and other necessary adjuncts thereto, by assessing all, or any portion of the costs, on adjacent property according to the benefits derived. For the purposes of this chapter, the board of trustees may define “*adjacent property*” as all that included within a designated benefited district or districts to be fixed by the board, which may be all of the property located within the sanitary district or any lesser portion of that property. It is not a valid objection to a special assessment that the improvement for which the assessment is levied is outside the limits of the sanitary district, but a special assessment shall not be made upon property situated outside of the sanitary district. Special assessments pursuant to this section shall be in proportion to the special benefits conferred upon the property, and not in excess of the benefits, and an assessment shall not exceed twenty-five percent of the value of the property at the time of levy. The value of a property is the present fair market value of the property with the proposed public improvements completed. Payment of installments of a special assessment against property used and assessed as agricultural property shall be deferred upon the filing of a request by the owner

in the same manner and under the same procedures as provided in chapter 384 for special assessments by cities.

The assessments may be made to extend over a period not to exceed fifteen years, payable in as nearly equal annual installments as practicable. A majority vote of the board of trustees is requisite and sufficient for any action required by the board of trustees under this section.

Subject to the limitations otherwise stated in this section, a sanitary district organized under this chapter has all of the powers to specially assess the costs of improvements described in this section, including the power to issue special assessment bonds, warrants, project notes, or other forms of interim financing obligations, which cities have under the laws of this state.

Subject to the limitations otherwise stated in this section, the board of trustees may establish one or more benefited districts and schedules of fees for the connection of property to the sanitary sewer facilities of a sanitary district. Each person whose property will be connected to the sanitary sewer facilities of a sanitary district shall pay a connection fee to the sanitary district, which may include the equitable cost of extending sanitary sewer service to the benefited district and reasonable interest from the date of construction to the date of payment. In establishing the benefited districts and establishing and implementing the schedules of fees, the board of trustees shall act in accordance with the powers granted to a city in section 384.38, subsection 3, and the procedures in that subsection. However, all fees collected under this paragraph shall be paid to the sanitary district and the moneys collected as fees shall be used only by the sanitary district to finance improvements or extensions to its sanitary sewer facilities, to reimburse the sanitary district for funds disbursed by its board of trustees to finance improvements or extensions to its sanitary sewer facilities, or to pay debt service on obligations issued to finance improvements or extensions to its sanitary sewer facilities. This paragraph does not apply when a sanitary district annexation plan or petition includes annexation of an area adjoining the district or a petition has not been presented for a sewer connection. Until the annexation becomes effective or the annexation plan or petition is abandoned, the state mandate contained in section 455B.172, subsections 3, 4, and 5, shall not apply unless the property owner requests to be connected to the sanitary district's sewer facilities and voluntarily pays the connection fee.

[C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §358.22]

87 Acts, ch 197, §4; 93 Acts, ch 57, §1; 97 Acts, ch 62, §2

358.23 Appeal to district court.

Any person aggrieved by any proceeding had by the board of supervisors or by the board of trustees as herein provided in relation to any matter involving the person's rights not included under the provisions of section 358.22 may appeal to the district court of the county in which the proceedings were had. Such appeals shall be governed in all respects as is provided by pertinent sections under chapter 468, subchapter I, parts 1 to 5.

[C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 71, 73, 75, 77, 79, 81, §358.23]

358.24 Contracts outside of district.

A sanitary district may enter into contracts with persons or firms outside its limits for the processing of sewage but the rate for processing shall not be less than that charged the inhabitants of the district.

A district entering into a contract may lay sewer lines in highways outside the district upon first obtaining the permission of the state department of transportation in the case of primary roads and the board of supervisors in case of secondary roads, on written application designating the particular highway and part thereof, the use of which is desired.

A sanitary district adjoining a border of the state and owning and operating a sewage disposal plant, may contract with the governing body of any legal entity in an adjacent area in another state, to process the sewage from the area. The contract shall be subject to approval of the Iowa department of public health.

[C58, 62, 66, 71, 73, §393.10, 393.11, 393.13; C75, 77, 79, 81, §358.24]

358.25 Revenue bonds.

Sanitary districts incorporated under this chapter may exercise the powers granted to counties in sections 331.462 to 331.470, to issue revenue bonds for the purposes in section 331.461, subsection 2, paragraphs “b” and “c”.

[C35, §6066 – f1, f5, f8; C39, §6066.24, 6066.28 – 6066.32; C46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, §394.1, 394.5 – 394.9; C71, 73, §394.1, 394.5 – 394.9, 394.13; C75, 77, 79, 81, §332.44; S81, §358.25; 81 Acts, ch 117, §1069]

358.26 Annexation.

1. In a county which has more than seven thousand five hundred acres of natural lakes, the board of trustees may, or upon request of property owners representing twenty-five percent of the valuation of the property to be annexed shall, file a petition in the office of county auditor of the county in which the property to be annexed or the major part of the property is located, requesting that there be submitted to the voters of the existing district and the area to be annexed the question whether the territory proposed to be annexed should be annexed to the sanitary district. The property to be annexed must be located within the watershed of a natural lake or navigable water as defined in section 462A.2 in the existing district. The board of supervisors of the county in which the property to be annexed or the major part of the property is located shall have jurisdiction of the proceedings on the petition.

2. The petition shall be addressed to the board of supervisors of the county in which the property to be annexed or the major part of the property is located and shall include the following:

- a. An intelligible description of the property to be annexed to the sanitary district.
 - b. A statement that the public health, comfort, convenience, or welfare will be promoted by the annexation of the property.
 - c. The signatures of the president and the clerk of the board of trustees.
- 98 Acts, ch 1139, §2

358.27 Hearing on annexation — date and notice.

1. The board of supervisors to which a petition filed pursuant to section 358.26 is addressed, at its next meeting, shall set the time and place for a public hearing on the petition. The board of supervisors shall direct the county auditor to give notice to interested persons of the pendency and content of the petition and of the public hearing by publication of a notice as provided in section 331.305. Proof of publication shall be filed with and preserved by the county auditor. The notice of the public hearing shall include the following information:

- a. That a petition has been filed with the county auditor proposing to annex property to the district.
- b. An intelligible description of the property to be annexed to the district.
- c. The date, time, and place of the public hearing at which the petition shall be considered by the county board of supervisors.
- d. That the county board of supervisors shall determine the property to be annexed as described in the petition or otherwise described and, for the purpose of describing the property, the county board of supervisors may alter and amend the petition.

2. A copy of the notice shall also be sent by mail to each owner of each tract of land within the area to be annexed as shown by the transfer books of the county auditor's office. The mailings shall be to the last known address unless there is on file an affidavit of the county auditor or of a person designated by the board of supervisors to make the necessary investigation, stating that an address is not known and that diligent inquiry has been made to ascertain the address. The copy of the notice shall be mailed not less than twenty days before the date of the public hearing and the proof of service shall be made by affidavit of the county auditor. The proof of service shall be on file at the commencement of the public hearing.

3. In lieu of the mailing to the last known address, a person owning land to be annexed may file with the county auditor a written instrument designating the owner's mailing address for annexation purposes. The designated address is effective for five years and applies to all annexation proceedings pursuant to sections 358.26 through 358.29.

4. In lieu of publication or notice by mail, personal service of the notice may be made upon an owner of land proposed for annexation in the same manner as required for the service of original notices in the district court.

98 Acts, ch 1139, §3

358.28 Annexation hearing.

The board of supervisors to whom a petition filed pursuant to section 358.26 is addressed shall preside at the public hearing provided for in section 358.27 and shall continue the hearing with adjournments from day to day until completed without giving further notice of the hearing. A representative of the sanitary district board of trustees shall attend the public hearing and be available to answer questions regarding the proposed annexation. The board of supervisors may consider the property to be annexed, whether the property shall be described as provided in the petition or be otherwise described, and for the purpose of describing the property, may amend the petition by limiting or changing the property to be annexed as stated in the petition. The board of supervisors shall adjust the property to be annexed as needed to exclude land that has no reasonable likelihood of benefit from inclusion in the area to be annexed. The boundaries of the area to be annexed shall not be changed to incorporate property which is not included in the petition until the owner of the property is given notice of the proposed annexation as provided in section 358.27.

All persons in the district and in the area to be annexed shall have an opportunity to be heard regarding the proposed annexation and make suggestions regarding the property to be annexed. The board of supervisors, after hearing the statements, evidence, and suggestions at the public hearing, shall enter an order determining the property to be annexed and directing that the question of annexation be submitted at an election to the registered voters residing within the district and within the area to be annexed. The order shall fix a date for the election which shall be held not more than sixty days after the date of the order.

98 Acts, ch 1139, §4

358.29 Notice, election, and expenses — costs.

1. In the order for the election pursuant to section 358.28, the board of supervisors shall direct the county commissioner of elections to give notice of the election at least twenty days before the date of election by publication of the notice as provided in section 331.305. The notice shall state the time and place of the election, the hours when the polls will be open, the purpose of the election including a description of the property to be annexed, a brief description of the limits of each voting precinct, and the location of polling places. Proof of publication shall be made in the same manner as provided in section 358.27 and filed with the county auditor.

2. Each registered voter who resides within the sanitary district and each registered voter who resides in the area to be annexed shall have the right to cast a ballot at the election. A registered voter shall not vote in any precinct except the precinct in which the voter resides. The ballots at the election shall be in substantially the following form:

For annexation	☐
Against annexation	☐

3. The results of an election shall be noted on the records of the county auditor. If a majority of the votes cast on the question of annexation favors annexation, the property contained in the area to be annexed shall be included in the sanitary district.

4. An election held pursuant to this section shall be conducted by the county commissioner of elections. All expenses incurred in implementing sections 358.26 through 358.29, including the costs of an election as determined by the county commissioner of elections, shall be paid by the sanitary district.

98 Acts, ch 1139, §5

358.30 Annexation of land by a city — compensation.

A sanitary district shall be fairly compensated for losses resulting from annexation. The governing body of a city or city utility and the board of trustees of the sanitary district may agree to terms which provide that the facilities owned by the sanitary district and located within the city shall be retained by the sanitary district for the purpose of sanitary service to customers outside the city. If an agreement is not reached within ninety days, the issues may be submitted to arbitration. If submitted, an arbitrator shall be selected by a committee which includes one member of the governing body of the city or its designee, one member of the sanitary district's board of trustees or its designee, and a disinterested party selected by the other two members of the committee. A list of qualified arbitrators may be obtained from the American arbitration association or another recognized arbitration organization or association.

93 Acts, ch 57, §2

CONVEYANCE TO CITY

358.31 Petition filed.

A board of trustees of a sanitary district may, by resolution, authorize the filing of a petition in the office of the county auditor of the county in which the sanitary district or a major portion of it is located, requesting the conveyance and discontinuance of the sanitary district. The petition shall be addressed to the board of supervisors of the county where it is filed and must set forth:

1. The name of the sanitary district.
2. That the sanitary district lies wholly or partially within the corporate limits of a city, or the depository for the sanitary district is a municipal sanitary sewage system.
3. That the public health, comfort, convenience or welfare will be promoted by the conveyance and discontinuance of the sanitary district and the assumption of the duties, responsibilities and functions of the sanitary district by the city.
4. A statement that the city has agreed to assume the duties, responsibilities and functions of the sanitary district upon the conveyance and discontinuance. A copy of the agreement shall be attached to the petition.
5. A listing of the assets and liabilities of the sanitary district, including a complete statement of indebtedness.
6. A copy of the resolution of the board of trustees of the sanitary district.

[C75, 77, 79, 81, §358.25; S81, §358.31]

358.32 Jurisdiction by board of supervisors.

The board of supervisors of the county in which the sanitary district or a major portion of it is located shall have jurisdiction of the proceedings on the petition, and the decision of a majority of the members of the board shall be necessary for approval of the petition for conveyance and discontinuance. Orders of the board made under this section shall be spread upon the records of the proceedings of the board of supervisors, and shall be filed with the county recorder but need not be published under section 349.16.

[C75, 77, 79, 81, §358.26; S81, §358.32]

358.33 Hearing on petition.

The board of supervisors to whom the petition is addressed, at its next regular meeting shall set the time and place when it shall meet for a hearing on the petition, and it shall direct the county auditor in whose office the petition is filed to cause notice to be given to all persons whom it may concern, without naming them, of the pendency and request of the petition for the conveyance and discontinuance by publication of a notice as provided in section 331.305.

Proof of giving notice shall be made by affidavit of the publisher and shall be filed with the county auditor at the time the hearing begins.

[C75, 77, 79, 81, §358.27; S81, §358.33]

87 Acts, ch 43, §11

358.34 Notice.

The notice of hearing shall state the following:

1. That a petition has been filed with the county auditor of the county for the conveyance and discontinuance of the sanitary district.
2. An intelligible description of the boundaries of the sanitary district.
3. The date, hour and place where the petition will be heard before the board of supervisors of the county.
4. That the board of supervisors will hear all persons having an interest in the matter and that after the hearing, the board of supervisors will take action as is in the best interest of the sanitary district.

[C75, 77, 79, 81, §358.28; S81, §358.34]

358.35 Conducting hearing.

The board of supervisors to whom the petition is addressed shall preside at the hearing and shall continue the same in session with adjournments from day to day, if necessary, and until completed, without being required to give further notice. At the hearing, all persons interested in the matter of the conveyance and discontinuance of the sanitary district may appear and shall be heard, for and against the conveyance and discontinuance, and the board shall examine into the matter and the equitable distribution of the assets, and equitable distribution and assumption of the liabilities which have accrued during the time the sanitary district has been in existence. The board shall receive evidence on the question from the parties interested, and, after hearing and reviewing the statements, evidence, and suggestions made and offered at the hearing, if it finds that the sanitary district lies wholly or partially within the corporate limits of a city or that the depository of the district is a municipal sanitary sewage system, that the public health, comfort, convenience or welfare will be promoted by the conveyance and discontinuance of the sanitary district and the assumption of the duties, responsibilities and functions of the sanitary district by the city, and that the city has agreed to assume the duties, responsibilities and functions of the sanitary district, shall enter an order specifying the matter and specifying the equitable distribution of the assets, and the equitable distribution and assumption of the liabilities and responsibilities of the sanitary district and setting an effective date of the conveyance and discontinuance.

[C75, 77, 79, 81, §358.29; S81, §358.35]

358.36 Filing order of discontinuance.

When a sanitary district has been discontinued by order of the board of supervisors, as provided in this division, the order of the board of supervisors shall be filed in the office of the recorder in the county or counties in which the sanitary district is located. The agreement of the city in which the sanitary district is located and which has agreed to assume the duties, responsibilities and functions of the sanitary district shall also be filed along with, and as part of the order of the board of supervisors conveying and discontinuing the district.

[C75, 77, 79, 81, §358.30; S81, §358.36]

358.37 Pending rights or liabilities.

The assumption by the city shall not affect or impair any rights or liabilities then existing for or against either the sanitary district or the city, and they may be enforced as provided in this division.

[C75, 77, 79, 81, §358.31; S81, §358.37]

358.38 Indebtedness assumed.

The indebtedness of the sanitary district shall be assumed and paid by the city, and may be paid by a tax to be levied exclusively upon the property within the jurisdiction of the sanitary district as it existed prior to the conveyance and discontinuance, or by the issuance of such bonds as cities may issue for purchasing and acquiring any sanitary sewer system or sewage disposal works and facilities or both.

[C75, 77, 79, 81, §358.32; S81, §358.38]

358.39 Claims prosecuted against city.

Suits to enforce claims or demands existing at the time of the conveyance, discontinuance and assumption may be prosecuted or brought against the city which assumes the obligations of the sanitary district, and judgments obtained shall be paid as provided in section 358.38 for the payment of the indebtedness.

[C75, 77, 79, 81, §358.33; S81, §358.39]

358.40 Dissolution.

1. After three years from the establishment of a sanitary 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.

84 Acts, ch 1051, §4; 2007 Acts, ch 126, §60