

## CHAPTER 32

## EMINENT DOMAIN

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## SUBCHAPTER I

## GENERAL EMINENT DOMAIN

**32.01 Definitions.** In this subchapter unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

(1) "Person" includes the state, a county, town, village, city, school district or other municipal corporation, a board, commission, including a commission created by contract under s. 66.30, corporation, or housing authority created under ss. 66.40 to 66.404 or redevelopment authority created under s. 66.431.

(2) "Property" includes estates in lands, fixtures and personal property directly connected with lands.

**History:** 1973 c. 305; 1979 c. 175 s. 53; 1983 a. 27; 1983 a. 236 s. 12.

**32.02 Who may condemn; purposes.** The following departments, municipalities, boards, commissions, public officers and corporations may acquire by condemnation any real estate and personal property appurtenant thereto or interest therein which they have power to ac-

quire and hold or transfer to the state, for the purposes specified, in case such property cannot be acquired by gift or purchase at an agreed price:

(1) Any county, town, village, city, including villages and cities incorporated under general or special acts, school district, the department of health and social services, the board of regents of the university of Wisconsin system, the building commission, a commission created by contract under s. 66.30, with the approval of the municipality in which condemnation is proposed, or any public board or commission, for any lawful purpose, but in the case of city and village boards or commissions approval of that action is required to be granted by the governing body. A mosquito control commission, created under s. 59.861, may not acquire property by condemnation.

(2) The governor and adjutant general for land adjacent to the Wisconsin state military reservation at Camp Douglas for the use of the Wisconsin national guard.

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(3) Any railroad corporation, any street or interurban railway corporation, any grantee of a permit to construct a dam to develop hydroelectric energy for sale to the public or for the operation of a street or interurban railway, any Wisconsin plank or turnpike road corporation, any drainage corporation, any interstate bridge corporation, or any corporation formed under chapter 288, laws of 1899, for any public purpose authorized by its articles of organization.

(4) Any Wisconsin telegraph or telephone corporation for the construction and location of its lines.

(5) Any Wisconsin corporation engaged in the business of transmitting or furnishing heat, power or electric light for the public for the construction and location of its lines or for ponds or reservoirs or any dam, dam site, flowage rights or undeveloped water power.

(6) Any Wisconsin corporation furnishing gas, electric light or power to the public, for additions or extensions to its plant and for the purpose of conducting tests or studies to determine the suitability of a site for the placement of a facility.

(7) Any Wisconsin corporation formed for the improvement of any stream and driving logs therein, for the purpose of the improvement of such stream, or for ponds or reservoir purposes.

(8) Any Wisconsin corporation organized to furnish water or light to any city or village or the inhabitants thereof, for the construction and maintenance of its plant.

(9) Any Wisconsin corporation transmitting gas, oil or related products in pipelines for sale to the public directly or for sale to one or more other corporations furnishing such gas, oil or related products to the public.

(10) Any rural electric co-operative association organized under ch. 185 which operates a rural electrification project to:

(a) Generate, distribute or furnish at cost electric energy at retail to 500 or more members of said association in accordance with standard rules for extension of its service and facilities as provided in the bylaws of said association and whose bylaws also provide for the acceptance into membership of all applicants therefor who may reside within the territory in which such association undertakes to furnish its service, without discrimination as to such applicants; or

(b) Generate, transmit and furnish electric energy at wholesale to 3 or more rural electric cooperative associations furnishing electric energy under the conditions set forth in par. (a), for the construction and location of its lines, substation or generating plants, ponds or reservoirs, any dam, dam site, flowage rights or undeveloped water power, or for additions or

extension of its plant and for the purpose of conducting tests or studies to determine the suitability of a site for the placement of a facility.

(11) Any housing authority created under ss. 66.40 to 66.404, any redevelopment authority created under s. 66.431 or community development authority created under s. 66.4325.

(12) Any person operating a plant which creates waste material which, if released without treatment would cause stream pollution, for the location of treatment facilities. This subsection does not apply to a person licensed under ss. 144.80 to 144.94.

(13) Any corporation licensed to do business in Wisconsin that shall transmit oil or related products including all hydrocarbons which are in a liquid form at the temperature and pressure under which they are transported in pipelines in Wisconsin, and shall maintain terminal or product delivery facilities in Wisconsin, and shall be engaged in interstate or international commerce, subject to the approval of the public service commission upon a finding by it that the proposed real estate interests sought to be acquired are in the public interest.

(15) The department of transportation for the acquisition of abandoned railroad and utility property under s. 85.09.

(16) The department of natural resources with the approval of the appropriate standing committees of each house of the legislature as determined by the presiding officer thereof and as authorized by law, for acquisition of lands.

**History:** 1971 c. 100 s. 23; 1973 c. 243, 305; 1975 c. 68, 311; 1977 c. 29, 203, 438, 440; 1979 c. 34 s. 2102 (52) (b); 1979 c. 122; 1979 c. 175 s. 53; 1981 c. 86, 346, 374; 1983 a. 27

**Cross Reference:** See 13.48 (16) for limitation on condemnation authority of the building commission

**32.03 When condemnation not to be exercised.**

(1) The general power of condemnation conferred in this subchapter does not extend to property owned by the state, a municipality, public board or commission, nor to the condemnation by a railroad, public utility or electric cooperative of the property of either a railroad, public utility or electric cooperative unless such power is specifically conferred by law, provided that property not to exceed 100 feet in width owned by or otherwise under the control or jurisdiction of a public board or commission of any city may be condemned by a railroad corporation for right of way or other purposes, whenever such city by ordinance consents thereto. This subchapter does not apply to the acquisition by municipalities of the property of public utilities used and useful in their business, nor to any city of the 1st class, except that every such city may conduct any condemnation proceedings either under this subchapter

or, at its option, under other laws applicable to such city.

(2) Any railroad corporation or street or interurban railway corporation, or pipeline corporation may acquire by condemnation lands or interest therein which are held and owned by another railroad corporation, street or interurban railway or pipeline corporation. In the case of a railroad corporation, or street or interurban railway corporation no such land shall be taken so as to interfere with the main track of the railroad first established except for crossing, and in the case of a pipeline corporation no such land shall be taken except for crossing or in such manner as to interfere with or endanger railroad operations.

(3) Any public utility corporation, or cooperative association mentioned in s. 32.02 (10), upon securing from the public service commission, pursuant to written application and upon due notice to all interested parties, an order determining that lands or interests therein sought to be acquired by the applicant are owned by a public utility corporation or such rural electric co-operative and are not then being used by the owner for service to the public by the public utility or to its members by such co-operative association and will not be required in the future for such purposes to an extent and within a period which will be interfered with by the appropriation of the lands or interests sought to be condemned, may acquire by condemnation such lands or interests therein. No lands, or interests therein, belonging to a public utility corporation or to any such co-operative association which is being held by such owner as a site for an electric generating plant, and no other property so owned, or any interest therein, which is used or suitable for the development of water power, shall be subject to condemnation under this subsection; except that an undeveloped water power site, belonging to any such public utility corporation or to any such co-operative association and which is within the flowage area of any other undeveloped water power site, may be condemned pursuant to this subsection, but only if, upon application to it, the public service commission, after hearing held upon notice to such owner and all parties interested, shall by order determine the necessity of taking such lands or interest therein. Such order shall be subject to review as prescribed by ch. 227. Any condemnation of lands pursuant to this subsection shall be conducted in accordance with the procedure and requirements prescribed by ss. 32.04 to 32.14.

(5) (a) If an electric utility is required to obtain a certificate of public convenience and

necessity from the public service commission under s. 196.491, no right to acquire real estate or personal property appurtenant thereto or interest therein for such project by condemnation shall accrue or exist under s. 32.02 or 32.075 (2) until such a certificate of public convenience and necessity has been issued.

(b) This subsection does not apply to the condemnation of a limited interest in real property or appurtenant personal property, except structures with foundations, necessary to conduct tests or studies to determine the suitability of a site for the placement of a utility facility, provided that:

1. Such a limited interest does not run for more than 3 years;

2. Activities associated with such tests or studies will be conducted at reasonable hours with minimal disturbance, and the property will be reasonably restored to its former state, upon completion of such tests or studies; and

3. The facility to be placed on such site has been described in an advance plan approved by the public service commission under s. 196.491 (2) (i).

**History:** 1973 c. 305; 1975 c. 68; 1979 c. 175 s. 53; 1983 a. 27; 1983 a. 236 s. 12; 1983 a. 338 s. 3

County lands are not subject to condemnation by a town absent express statutory authority authorizing such condemnation: 62 Atty. Gen. 64.

### 32.035 Agricultural impact statement. (1)

**DEFINITIONS.** In this section:

(a) "Department" means department of agriculture, trade and consumer protection.

(b) "Farm operation" means any activity conducted solely or primarily for the production of one or more agricultural commodities for sale and home use, and customarily producing the commodities in sufficient quantity to be capable of contributing materially to the operator's support.

(2) **EXCEPTION.** This section shall not apply if an environmental impact statement under s. 1.11 is prepared for the proposed project and if the department submits the information required under this section as part of such statement or if the condemnation is for an easement for the purpose of constructing or operating an electric transmission line, except a high voltage transmission line as defined in s. 196.491 (1) (f).

(3) **PROCEDURE.** The condemnor shall notify the department of any project involving the actual or potential exercise of the powers of eminent domain affecting a farm operation. If the condemnor is the department of natural resources, the notice required by this subsection shall be given at the time that permission of the senate and assembly committees on natural resources is sought under s. 23.09 (2) (d) or 27.01 (2) (a). To prepare an agricultural impact

statement under this section, the department may require the condemnor to compile and submit information about an affected farm operation. The department shall charge the condemnor a fee approximating the actual costs of preparing the statement. The department may not publish the statement if the fee is not paid.

(4) **IMPACT STATEMENT.** (a) *When an impact statement is required; permitted.* The department shall prepare an agricultural impact statement for each project, except a project under ch. 81, if the project involves the actual or potential exercise of the powers of eminent domain and if any interest in more than 5 acres of any farm operation may be taken. The department may prepare an agricultural impact statement on a project if any interest in 5 or less acres of any farm operation may be taken and if the condemnation will have a significant effect on any farm operation as a whole.

(b) *Contents.* The agricultural impact statement shall include:

1. A list of the acreage and description of all land lost to agricultural production and all other land with reduced productive capacity, whether or not the land is taken.

2. The department's analyses, conclusions and recommendations concerning the agricultural impact of the project.

(c) *Preparation time; publication.* The department shall prepare the impact statement within 60 days of receiving the information requested from the condemnor under sub. (3). The department shall publish the statement upon receipt of the fee required under sub. (3).

(d) *Waiting period.* The condemnor may not negotiate with an owner or make a jurisdictional offer under this subchapter until 30 days after the impact statement is published.

(5) **PUBLICATION.** Upon completing the impact statement, the department shall distribute the impact statement to the following:

(a) The governor's office.

(b) The senate and assembly committees on agriculture and transportation.

(c) All local and regional units of government which have jurisdiction over the area affected by the project. The department shall request that each unit post the statement at the place normally used for public notice.

(d) Local and regional news media in the area affected.

(e) Public libraries in the area affected.

(f) Any individual, group, club or committee which has demonstrated an interest and has requested receipt of such information.

(g) The condemnor.

**History:** 1977 c. 440; 1979 c. 34; 1983 a. 236 s. 12.

**32.04 Procedure in condemnation.** All acquisition of property in this state by condemnation, except as hereinafter provided, commenced after April 6, 1960 shall be accomplished in the following manner:

**32.05 Condemnation for sewers and transportation facilities.** In this section, "mass transit facility" includes, without limitation because of enumeration, exclusive or preferential bus lanes if those lanes are limited to abandoned railroad right-of-ways or existing expressways constructed before May 17, 1978, highway control devices, bus passenger loading areas and terminal facilities, including shelters, and fringe and corridor parking facilities to serve bus and other public mass transportation passengers, together with the acquisition, construction, reconstruction and maintenance of lands and facilities for the development, improvement and use of public mass transportation systems for the transportation of passengers. This section does not apply to town highways created or altered under ch. 80 except as to jury trials on appeals under ss. 80.24 and 80.25, nor to proceedings in cities of the 1st class under subch. II. In cities of the 1st class, condemnation for housing under ss. 66.40 to 66.404, or for urban renewal under s. 66.431 may proceed under this section or under s. 32.06 at the option of the condemning authority. All other condemnation of property for public alleys, streets, highways, airports, mass transit facilities, or other transportation facilities, or storm sewers and sanitary sewers or watercourses shall proceed as follows:

(1) **RELOCATION ORDER.** (a) Except as provided under par. (b), the county board of supervisors (or the county highway committee when so authorized by the board), city council, village board, sewerage commission governing metropolitan sewerage district created by ss. 66.22 or 66.88 to 66.918, secretary of transportation, a commission created by contract under s. 66.30, housing authority under ss. 66.40 to 66.404, redevelopment authority under s. 66.431 or community development authority under s. 66.4325 shall make an order providing for the laying out, relocation and improvement of the public highway, street, alley, storm and sanitary sewers, watercourses, mass transit facilities, airport, or other transportation facilities, housing project or redevelopment project which shall be known as the relocation order. This order shall include a map or plat showing the old and new locations and the lands and interests required. A copy of the order shall, within 20 days after its issue, be filed with the county clerk of the county wherein the lands are located.

(b) No relocation order is necessary under par. (a) if the compensation, as estimated by the appraisal under sub. (2) (a), will be less than \$1,000 in the aggregate.

**(2) APPRAISAL.** (a) The condemnor shall cause at least one, or more in his discretion, appraisal to be made of all property proposed to be acquired. In making any such appraisal the appraiser shall confer with the owner or one of the owners, or his personal representative, if reasonably possible.

(b) The condemnor shall provide the owner with a full narrative appraisal upon which the jurisdictional offer is based and a copy of any other appraisal made under par. (a) and at the same time shall inform the owner of his or her right to obtain an appraisal under this paragraph. The owner may obtain an appraisal by a qualified appraiser of all property proposed to be acquired, and may submit the reasonable costs of the appraisal to the condemnor for payment. The owner shall submit a full narrative appraisal to the condemnor within 60 days after the owner receives the condemnor's appraisal. If the owner does not accept a negotiated offer under sub. (2a) or the jurisdictional offer under sub. (3), the owner may use an appraisal prepared under this paragraph in any subsequent appeal.

**(2a) NEGOTIATION.** Before making the jurisdictional offer provided in sub. (3), the condemnor shall attempt to negotiate personally with the owner or one of the owners or his or her representative of the property sought to be taken for the purchase of the same. In such negotiation the condemnor shall consider the owner's appraisal under sub. (2) (b) and may contract to pay the items of compensation enumerated in ss. 32.09 and 32.19 as may be applicable to the property in one or more instalments on such conditions as the condemnor and property owners may agree. Before attempting to negotiate under this paragraph, the condemnor shall provide the owner or his or her representative with copies of applicable pamphlets prepared under s. 32.26 (6). When negotiating under this subsection, the condemnor shall provide the owner or his or her representative with the names of at least 10 neighboring landowners to whom offers are being made, or a list of all offerees if less than 10 owners are affected, together with a map showing all property affected by the project. Upon request by an owner or his or her representative, the condemnor shall provide the name of the owner of any other property which may be taken for the project. The owner or his or her representative shall also have the right, upon request, to examine any maps in the possession of the condemnor showing property affected by the pro-

ject. The owner or his or her representative may obtain copies of such maps by tendering the reasonable and necessary costs of preparing copies. The condemnor shall record any conveyance by or on behalf of the owner of the property to the condemnor executed as a result of negotiations under this subsection with the register of deeds of the county in which the property is located. The condemnor shall also record a certificate of compensation stating the identity of all persons having an interest of record in the property immediately prior to its conveyance, the legal description of the property, the nature of the interest acquired and the compensation for such acquisition. The condemnor shall serve upon or mail by certified mail to all persons named therein a copy of the statement and a notice of the right to appeal the amount of compensation under this subsection. Any person named in the certificate may, within 6 months after the date of its recording, appeal from the amount of compensation therein stated in the manner set forth in subs. (9) to (12) and chs. 808 and 809 for appeals from an award under sub. (7). For purposes of any such appeal, the amount of compensation stated in the certificate shall be treated as the award and the date the conveyance is recorded shall be treated as the date of taking and the date of evaluation.

**(3) JURISDICTIONAL OFFER TO PURCHASE.** Condemnor shall send to the owner, or one of the owners of record, and to the mortgagee, or one of the mortgagees of each mortgage of record, a notice:

(a) Stating briefly the nature of the project, with reference to the relocation order if required, and that the condemnor in good faith intends to use the property sought to be condemned for such public purpose.

(b) Describing the property and the interest therein sought to be taken.

(c) Stating the proposed date of occupancy regardless of the date of taking.

(d) Stating the amount of compensation offered, itemized as to the items of damage as set forth in s. 32.09 and that compensation for additional items of damage as set forth in s. 32.19 may be claimed under s. 32.20 and will be paid if shown to exist.

(e) Stating that the appraisal or one of the appraisals of the property on which condemnor's offer is based is available for inspection at a specified place by persons having an interest in the lands sought to be acquired.

(g) Stating that the owner has 20 days from date of completion of service upon him of the offer, as specified in sub. (6), in which to accept or reject the offer.

(h) Stating that if the owner has not accepted such offer as provided in sub. (6) he has 40 days from date of completion of service upon him of the offer to commence a court action to contest the right of condemnation as provided in sub. (5); provided that the acceptance and retention of any compensation resulting from an award made prior to the commencement of such an action shall be an absolute bar to such action.

(i) Stating that the owner, subject to subs. (9) (a) and (11), will have 2 years from the date of taking the property by award in which to appeal for greater compensation without prejudice to the right to use the compensation given by the award. If the condemning authority is a housing authority organized under ss. 66.40 to 66.404, a redevelopment authority organized under s. 66.431 or a community development authority organized under s. 66.4325, the notice shall also state that in the case of an appeal under sub. (9) (a) the parties having an interest in the property who are taking the appeal may initiate such appeal by filing with the condemning authority a letter requesting that the issue of the amount of such compensation be determined by the condemnation commission.

**(3m)** In this section, "uneconomic remnant" means the property remaining after a partial taking of property, if the property remaining is of such size, shape or condition as to be of little value or of substantially impaired economic viability. If the acquisition of only part of a property would leave its owner with an uneconomic remnant, the condemnor shall offer to acquire the remnant concurrently and may acquire it by purchase or by condemnation if the owner consents.

**(4) HOW NOTICE OF JURISDICTIONAL OFFER IS GIVEN.** The giving of such notice is a jurisdictional requisite to a taking by condemnation. Such notice may be given by personal service in the manner of service of a circuit court summons, or it may be transmitted by certified mail. If service is by mail, service of the papers shall be deemed completed on the date of mailing and the use of mail service shall not increase the time allowed to act in answer to or in consequence of such service. If such owner or mortgagee is unknown or cannot be found there shall be published in the county wherein the property is located a class 1 notice, under ch. 985. If such owner is a minor, or an incompetent person, the condemnor shall serve such notice upon the legal guardian of such minor or incompetent, and if there is no such guardian the condemnor shall proceed under s. 32.15 to have a special guardian appointed to represent such minor or incompetent in such proceeding. The reasonable fees of such special guardian as approved by the court shall be paid by the condemnor.

Such notice shall be called the "jurisdictional offer". The condemnor shall file a lis pendens on or within 14 days of the date of service or mailing of the jurisdictional offer or within 14 days of the date of publication if publication is necessary. The lis pendens shall include a copy of the jurisdictional offer. From the time of such filing every purchaser or encumbrancer whose conveyance or encumbrance is not recorded or filed shall be deemed a subsequent purchaser or encumbrancer and shall be bound by the terms of the jurisdictional offer and it shall not be necessary to serve other jurisdictional offers on such subsequent purchaser or encumbrancer. In the award the condemnor may name and make payment to parties who were owners or mortgagees at the time of the filing of the lis pendens unless subsequent purchasers or encumbrancers give written notice to the condemnor of their subsequently acquired interests in which event such parties shall be named in the award as their interests may appear.

**(5) COURT ACTION TO CONTEST RIGHT OF CONDEMNATION.** If an owner desires to contest the right of the condemnor to condemn the property described in the jurisdictional offer, for any reason other than that the amount of compensation offered is inadequate, the owner may within 40 days from the date of personal service of the jurisdictional offer or within 40 days from the date of postmark of the certified mail letter transmitting such offer, or within 40 days after date of publication of the jurisdictional offer as to persons for whom such publication was necessary and was made, commence an action in the circuit court of the county wherein the property is located, naming the condemnor as defendant. Such action shall be the only manner in which any issue other than the amount of just compensation, or other than proceedings to perfect title under ss. 32.11 and 32.12, may be raised pertaining to the condemnation of the property described in the jurisdictional offer. The trial of the issues raised by the pleadings in such action shall be given precedence over all other actions in said court then not on trial. If the action is not commenced within the time limited the owner or other person having any interest in the property shall be barred from raising any such objection in any other manner. Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit in any respect the right to determine the necessity of taking as conferred by s. 32.07 nor to prevent the condemnor from proceeding with condemnation during the pendency of the action to contest the right to condemn.

**(6) ACCEPTANCE OF JURISDICTIONAL OFFER.** The owner has 20 days from the date of personal service of the jurisdictional offer or 20 days from the date of postmark of the certified

mail letter transmitting such offer, or if publication of the jurisdictional offer was necessary and was made, 20 days after the date of such publication, in which to accept the jurisdictional offer unless such time is extended by mutual written consent of the condemnor and condemnee. If such offer is accepted, the transfer of title shall be accomplished within 60 days after acceptance including payment of the consideration stipulated in such offer. If the jurisdictional offer is rejected in writing by all of the owners of record the condemnor may proceed to make an award forthwith. At any time prior to acceptance of the jurisdictional offer by the condemnee the same may be withdrawn by the condemnor.

(7) **AWARD OF COMPENSATION.** If the owner has not accepted the jurisdictional offer within the periods limited in sub. (6) or fails to consummate an acceptance as provided therein, the condemnor may make an award of damages in the manner and sequence of acts as follows:

(a) The award shall be in writing. It shall state that it is made pursuant to relocation order of (name of commission, authority, board or council having jurisdiction to make the improvement) No. .... dated .... filed in the office of the County Clerk, County of ...., except as provided under sub. (1) (b). If a relocation order is not required under sub. (1) (b), the award shall name the condemnor. It shall name all persons having an interest of record in the property taken and may name the other persons. It shall describe such property by legal description and state the interest therein sought to be condemned and the date when actual occupancy of the property condemned will be taken by condemnor. The award shall also state the compensation for the taking which shall be an amount at least equal to the amount of the jurisdictional offer. The award shall state that the condemnor has complied with all jurisdictional requirements. An amended award for the purpose of correcting errors wherein the award as recorded differs from the jurisdictional offer may be made, served and recorded as provided by this section.

(b) Copy of such award shall be served on or mailed by certified mail to all persons named therein. If any such person cannot be found or his address is unknown, the award shall be published in the county wherein the property is situated as a class 3 notice, under ch. 985, and completed publication as shown by affidavit shall constitute proper service. Such award shall be known as the "basic award".

(c) When service of the award has been completed, and after payment of the award as provided in par. (d), the award shall be recorded in the office of the register of deeds of the

county wherein the property is located. Thereupon title in fee simple to the property described in the award, or the lesser right in property acquired by the award shall vest in the condemnor as of the time of recording. The date of such recording is the "date of evaluation" and also the "date of taking".

(d) On or before said date of taking, a check, naming the parties in interest as payees, for the amount of the award less outstanding delinquent tax liens, proportionately allocated as in division in redemption under ss. 74.06, 74.32 and 75.01 when necessary and less prorated taxes of the same year, if any, likewise proportionately allocated when necessary against the property taken, shall at the option of the condemnor be mailed by certified mail to the owner or one of the owners of record or be deposited with the clerk of the circuit court of the county for the benefit of the persons named in the award. The clerk shall give notice thereof by certified mail to such parties. The persons entitled thereto may receive their proper share of the award by petition to and order of the circuit court of the county. The petition shall be filed with the clerk of the court without fee.

(8) **OCCUPANCY; WRIT OF ASSISTANCE; WASTE.** No person occupying real property may be required to move from a dwelling or move his or her business or farm without at least 90 days' written notice of the intended vacation date from the condemnor. The displaced person shall have rent-free occupancy of the acquired property for a period of 30 days, commencing with the next 1st or 15th day of the month after title vests in the condemnor, whichever is sooner. Any person occupying the property after the date that title vests in the condemnor is liable to the condemnor for all waste committed or allowed by the occupant on the lands condemned during the occupancy. The condemnor has the right to possession when the persons who occupied the acquired property vacate, or hold over beyond the vacation date established by the condemnor, whichever is sooner, except that the condemnor may not require the persons who occupied the premises on the date title vested in the condemnor to vacate until a comparable replacement property is made available. If the condemnor is denied the right of possession, the condemnor may, upon 48 hours' notice to the occupant, apply to the circuit court where the property is located for a writ of assistance to be put in possession. The circuit court shall grant the writ of assistance if all jurisdictional requirements have been complied with, if the award has been paid or tendered as required and if the condemnor has made a comparable replacement property available to

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the occupants. In this subsection, "condemnor" has the meaning given in s. 32.185.

(9) APPEAL FROM AWARD BY OWNER OR OTHER PARTY IN INTEREST. (a) Any party having an interest in the property condemned may, within 2 years after the date of taking, appeal from the award, except as limited by this subsection by applying to the judge of the circuit court for the county wherein the property is located for assignment to a commission of county condemnation commissioners as provided in s. 32.08, except that if the condemning authority is a housing authority organized under ss. 66.40 to 66.404, a redevelopment authority organized under s. 66.431 or a community development authority organized under s. 66.4325, the appeals may be initiated by filing with the condemning authority a letter requesting that the issue of the amount of the compensation be determined by the condemnation commission. The condemning authority shall, upon receipt of the letter, apply to the judge of the circuit court for the county wherein the property is located for assignment to a commission of county condemnation commissioners as provided in s. 32.08. This application shall contain a description of the property condemned and the names and last-known addresses of all parties in interest but shall not disclose the amount of the jurisdictional offer nor the amount of the basic award. Violation of this prohibition shall nullify the application. Notice of the application shall be given to the clerk of the court and to all other persons other than the applicant who were parties to the award. The notice may be given by certified mail or personal service. Upon proof of the service the judge shall forthwith make assignment. Where one party in interest has appealed from the award, no other party in interest who has been served with a notice of the appeal may take a separate appeal, but may join in the appeal by serving notice upon the condemnor and the appellant of the party's election to do so. The notice shall be given by certified mail or personal service within 10 days after receipt of notice of the appeal and shall be filed with the clerk of the court. Upon failure to give and file the notice all other parties of interest shall be deemed not to have appealed. The result of the appeal shall not affect parties who have not joined in the appeal as provided in this paragraph. In cases involving more than one party in interest with a right to appeal, the first of the parties filing an appeal under this subsection or under sub. (11) shall determine whether the appeal shall be under this subsection or under sub. (11). No party in interest may file an appeal under this subsection if another party in interest in the same lands has filed a prior appeal complying

with the requirements of sub. (11). Thereafter the procedure shall be as prescribed in s. 32.08. In cases involving multiple ownership or interests in lands taken the following rules shall also apply:

1. Where all parties having an interest in the property taken do not join in an appeal, such fact shall not change the requirement that a finding of fair market value of the entire property taken and damages, if any, to the entire property taken, shall be made in determining compensation. Determination of the separate interests of parties having an interest in property taken shall, in cases of dispute, be resolved by a separate partition action as set forth herein.

2. In cases where the amount of the award appealed from is increased on appeal, such amount shall be paid by the condemnor making tender of the amount to one of the appellant owners or appellant parties of interest in the same manner governing the tender of a basic award. In event a determination on appeal reduces the amount of the appealed award those parties who joined in the appeal shall be liable, jointly and severally, to the condemning authority.

3. When the owners or parties having an interest in land taken cannot agree on the division of an award, any of such owners or parties of interest may petition the circuit court for the county wherein the property is located for partition of the award moneys as provided in s. 820.01. When the tender of an award is refused, the condemning authority may pay the award to the clerk of the circuit court for the county wherein the property is located and no interest shall accrue against the condemning authority for moneys so paid.

(b) If the commission's award exceeds the basic award the owner shall recover the excess plus interest thereon until payment from the date of taking less a period which is 14 days after the date of filing the commission's award. If the commission's award is less than the basic award, the condemnor shall recover the difference with interest until payment from the date of taking.

(c) All sums due under this subsection shall be paid within 70 days after date of filing of the commission's award unless within such time an appeal is taken to the circuit court. In the event such appeal is later dismissed before trial such payment shall be made within 60 days after the dismissal date.

(d) In the event the award of the county condemnation commissioners is lower than the basic award and tender of the basic award has been accepted by an owner, the condemnor shall have a lien against such owner for the



amount of the difference. The lien shall give the name and address of the owner or owners, refer to the basic award and the award on appeal and state the difference in amounts. The lien may be filed in the office of the register of deeds and when so filed shall attach to all property of the owner presently owned or subsequently acquired in any county where such lien is filed. Such lien shall remain in force with interest until satisfied or until it is set aside by a judgment of the circuit court in an action pursuant to sub. (10).

**(10) APPEAL FROM COMMISSION'S AWARD TO CIRCUIT COURT.** (a) Within 60 days after the date of filing of the commission's award, any party to the proceeding before the commission may appeal to the circuit court of the county wherein the property is located. Notice of such appeal shall be given to the clerk of the circuit court and to all persons other than the appellant who were parties to the proceeding before the commissioners. Notice of appeal may be given by certified mail or by personal service. The clerk shall thereupon enter the appeal as an action pending in said court with the condemnee as plaintiff and the condemnor as defendant. It shall thereupon proceed as an action in said court subject to all the provisions of law relating to actions brought therein and shall have precedence over all actions not then on trial. The sole issues to be tried shall be questions of title, if any, under ss. 32.11 and 32.12 and the amount of just compensation to be paid by condemnor. It shall be tried by jury unless waived by both plaintiff and defendant. Neither the amount of the jurisdictional offer, the basic award, nor the award made by the commission shall be disclosed to the jury during such trial.

(b) The court shall enter judgment for the amount found to be due after giving effect to any amount paid by reason of a prior award. The judgment shall include legal interest on the amount so found due from the date of taking if judgment is for the condemnor, and from 14 days after the date of taking if judgment is for the condemnee.

(c) All moneys due under this subsection shall be paid within 60 days after entry of judgment unless within such period an appeal is taken by any party to the court of appeals.

**(11) WAIVER OF HEARING BEFORE COMMISSION; APPEAL TO CIRCUIT COURT AND JURY.** The owner of any interest in the property condemned named in the basic award may elect to waive the appeal procedure specified in sub. (9) and instead, within 2 years after the date of taking, appeal to the circuit court of the county wherein the property is located. The notice of appeal shall be served as provided in sub. (9)(a). Filing

of the notice of appeal shall constitute such waiver. The clerk shall thereupon enter the appeal as an action pending in said court with the condemnee as plaintiff and the condemnor as defendant. It shall proceed as an action in said court subject to all the provisions of law relating to actions originally brought therein and shall have precedence over all other actions not then on trial. The sole issues to be tried shall be questions of title, if any, under ss. 32.11 and 32.12 and the amount of just compensation to be paid by condemnor. It shall be tried by jury unless waived by both plaintiff and defendant. The amount of the jurisdictional offer or basic award shall not be disclosed to the jury during such trial. Where one party in interest has appealed from the award, no other party in interest who has been served with notice of such appeal may take a separate appeal but may join in the appeal by serving notice upon the condemnor and the appellant of his election to do so. Such notice shall be given by certified mail or personal service within 10 days after receipt of notice of the appeal and shall be filed with the clerk of court. Upon failure to give such notice such parties shall be deemed not to have appealed. The appeal shall not affect parties who have not joined in the appeal as herein provided. In cases involving more than one party in interest with a right to appeal, the first of such parties filing an appeal under sub. (9) or under this subsection shall determine whether such appeal shall be under sub. (9) or directly to the circuit court as here provided. No party in interest may file an appeal under this subsection if another party in interest in the same lands has filed a prior appeal complying with the requirements of sub. (9). In cases involving multiple ownership or interests in lands taken the provisions of sub. (9)(a) 1, 2 and 3 shall govern.

(a) If the jury verdict as approved by the court does not exceed the basic award, the condemnor shall have judgment against the appellant for the difference between the jury verdict and the amount of the basic award, plus interest on the amount of such difference from the date of taking.

(b) If the jury verdict as approved by the court exceeds the basic award, the appellant shall have judgment for the amount of such excess plus legal interest thereon to date of payment in full from that date which is 14 days after the date of taking.

(c) All moneys payable under this subsection shall be paid within 60 days after entry of judgment unless within such period an appeal is taken to the court of appeals.

**(12) EFFECT OF DETERMINATION OF COMPENSATION BY THE COURT WHERE JURY WAIVED.** If the action is tried by the court upon waiver of a jury

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the determination of the amount of damages by the court shall be considered in lieu of the words "jury verdict as approved by the court" where such language occurs in this section.

**History:** 1971 c. 244, 287, 307; 1973 c. 244; Sup Ct Order, 67 W (2d) 773; 1975 c. 218, 311, 410, 421; 1977 c. 29, 203, 338; 1977 c. 418 ss 259, 924 (8m); 1977 c. 438, 440, 447, 449; 1979 c. 310; 1981 c. 282 s. 47; 1981 c. 390 s. 252; 1983 a. 27; 1983 a. 219 ss 3, 46; 1983 a. 236 s. 13; 1983 a. 249

Interest is to be calculated from 14 days after the taking if judgment is for the condemnee rather than from taking to 60 days after trial, where entry of judgment was delayed for another 3 years. *Crown Zellerbach Corp v Milw. City Dev. Dept.* 47 W (2d) 142, 177 NW (2d) 94

Where notice of appeal from a condemnation award was not served on the condemnor the appeal is not perfected. In making an assignment to the condemnation commissioners the judge is acting in an administrative capacity. *State ex rel. Milw. County Exp Comm v Spenner*, 51 W (2d) 138, 186 NW (2d) 298

Where plaintiffs sold 2 parcels of land but reserved a strip between them for street purposes and the state then condemned the strip for a street, the taking was total and no special benefits to the land already sold could be considered. *Renk v State*, 52 W (2d) 539, 191 NW (2d) 4

When the record owner of property is deceased, the jurisdictional offer may properly be served on the heirs, and any objection may be raised only by action under (5). A motion to quash the proceeding is not sufficient. *Area Bd. of Vocational, T. & A. Ed v. Saltz*, 57 W (2d) 524, 204 NW (2d) 909

Sub. (11) (c) does not govern the time within which an appeal may be taken to the supreme court. *Weiland v Dept. of Transportation*, 62 W (2d) 456, 215 NW (2d) 455.

The requirement of (10) (a), of service of notice of appeal by personal service or by certified mail is not met by service through regular mail. *Big Valley Farms, Inc v. Public Service Corp.* 66 W (2d) 620, 225 NW (2d) 488

Scale drawings of a proposed sewer line as it traversed the condemnee's property was sufficient to comply with (1). *Ingalls v Village of Walworth*, 66 W (2d) 773, 226 NW (2d) 201.

Condemnor appealing under (10) has no right to abandon appeal over condemnee's objection where time for condemnee to appeal has expired. *Huth v Public Service Corp.* 82 W (2d) 102, 260 NW (2d) 676.

Valuation of financially troubled mass transit public utility in condemnation take-over by governmental unit discussed. Sub. (11) (b) requires the payment of continuous simple interest at legal rate of 5% from 14 days after date of taking until date of payment. *Milw. & Sub. Trans. v Milw. County*, 82 W (2d) 420, 263 NW (2d) 503

Where action under (5) is untimely, court must, on its own motion, dismiss for lack of subject-matter jurisdiction. *Achter v Pewaukee Lake Sanitary Dist.* 88 W (2d) 658, 277 NW (2d) 778 (1979).

Court had no jurisdiction over party to appeal where service under (10) (a) was by first class mail. *519 Corp. v Dept. of Trans.* 92 W (2d) 276, 284 NW (2d) 643 (1979).

Sales of components comparable to components of unitary economic entity were admissible to prove value of entity; income evidence was properly excluded. *Leatham Smith Lodge, Inc v State*, 94 W (2d) 406, 288 NW (2d) 808 (1980).

In absence of special circumstances, giving notice of "appeal" under (10) (a) to party's attorney was not sufficient notice to party. In *Matter of Petition of Elec Power Co.* 110 W (2d) 649, 329 NW (2d) 186 (1983).

See note to 814.04, citing 61 Atty. Gen. 114 concerning interest on verdict.

Statutory restrictions on the exercise of eminent domain in Wisconsin: Dual requirements of prior negotiation and provision of negotiating materials. 63 MLR 489 (1980).

Towards success in eminent domain litigation. *Southwick*, 1973 WBB No. 5.

New development in law of eminent domain, condemnation and relocation. *Thiel* WBB June, 1979.

**32.06 Condemnation procedure in other than transportation matters.** The procedure in condemnation in all matters except acquisitions under s. 32.05 or 32.22, acquisitions under

subch. II, acquisitions under ch. 157, and acquisitions under ch. 197, shall be as follows:

**(1) DETERMINATION OF NECESSITY OF TAKING.** The necessity of the taking shall be determined as provided in s. 32.07.

**(2) APPRAISAL.** (a) The condemnor shall cause at least one (or more in his discretion) appraisal to be made of the property proposed to be acquired. In making any such appraisal the appraiser shall confer with the owner or one of the owners, or his personal representative, if reasonably possible.

(b) The condemnor shall provide the owner with a full narrative appraisal upon which the jurisdictional offer is based and a copy of any appraisal made under par. (a) and at the same time shall inform the owner of his or her right to obtain an appraisal under this paragraph. The owner may obtain an appraisal by a qualified appraiser of all property proposed to be acquired, and submit the reasonable costs of the appraisal to the condemnor for payment. The owner shall submit a full narrative appraisal to the condemnor within 60 days after the owner receives the condemnor's appraisal. If the owner does not accept a negotiated offer under sub. (2a) or the jurisdictional offer under sub. (3), the owner may use an appraisal prepared under this paragraph in any subsequent appeal.

**(2a) AGREED PRICE.** Before making the jurisdictional offer under sub. (3) the condemnor shall attempt to negotiate personally with the owner or one of the owners or his or her representative of the property sought to be taken for the purchase of the same. In such negotiation the condemnor shall consider the owner's appraisal under sub. (2) (b) and may contract to pay the items of compensation enumerated in ss. 32.09 and 32.19 where shown to exist. Before attempting to negotiate under this paragraph, the condemnor shall provide the owner or his or her representative with copies of applicable pamphlets prepared under s. 32.26 (6). When negotiating under this subsection, the condemnor shall provide the owner or his or her representative with the names of at least 10 neighboring landowners to whom offers are being made, or a list of all offerees if less than 10 owners are affected, together with a map showing all property affected by the project. Upon request by an owner or his or her representative, the condemnor shall provide the name of the owner of any other property which may be taken for the project. The owner or his or her representative shall also have the right, upon request, to examine any maps in the possession of the condemnor showing property affected by the project. The owner or his or her representative may obtain copies of such maps by tender-

ing the reasonable and necessary costs of preparing copies. The condemnor shall record any conveyance by or on behalf of the owner of the property to the condemnor executed as a result of negotiations under this subsection with the register of deeds of the county in which the property is located. The condemnor shall also record a certificate of compensation stating the identity of all persons having an interest of record in the property immediately prior to its conveyance, the legal description of the property, the nature of the interest acquired and the compensation for such acquisition. The condemnor shall serve upon or mail by certified mail to all persons named therein a copy of the statement and a notice of the right to appeal the amount of compensation under this subsection. Any person named in the certificate may, within 6 months after the date of its recording, appeal from the amount of compensation therein stated by filing a petition with the judge of the circuit court of the county in which the property is located for proceedings to determine the amount of just compensation. Notice of such petition shall be given to all persons having an interest of record in such property. The judge shall forthwith assign the matter to the chairperson of the county condemnation commissioners for hearing under sub. (8). The procedures prescribed under subs. (9) (a) and (b), (10) and (12) and chs. 808 and 809 shall govern such appeals. The date the conveyance is recorded shall be treated as the date of taking and the date of evaluation.

**(3) MAKING JURISDICTIONAL OFFER.** The condemnor shall make and serve the jurisdictional offer and notice in the form (insofar as applicable) and manner of service provided in s. 32.05 (3) and (4), but *lis pendens* shall not be filed until date of petition under sub. (7). The offer shall state that if it is not accepted within 20 days, the condemnor may petition for a determination of just compensation by county condemnation commissioners and that either party may appeal from the award of the county condemnation commissioners to the circuit court within 60 days as provided in sub. (10).

**(3m) DEFINITION.** In this section, "uneconomic remnant" means the property remaining after a partial taking of property, if the property remaining is of such size, shape or condition as to be of little value or of substantially impaired economic viability. If acquisition of only part of a property would leave its owner with an uneconomic remnant, the condemnor shall offer to acquire the remnant concurrently and may acquire it by purchase or by condemnation if the owner consents.

**(4) RIGHT OF MINORS AND INCOMPETENTS.** If any person having an ownership interest in the property proposed to be condemned is a minor or an incompetent person, a special guardian shall be appointed for him pursuant to s. 32.05 (4).

**(5) COURT ACTION TO CONTEST RIGHT OF CONDEMNATION.** When an owner desires to contest the right of the condemnor to condemn the property described in the jurisdictional offer for any reason other than that the amount of compensation offered is inadequate, such owner may within 40 days from the date of personal service of the jurisdictional offer or within 40 days from the date of postmark of the certified mail letter transmitting such offer, or within 40 days after date of publication of the jurisdictional offer as to persons for whom such publication was necessary and was made, commence an action in the circuit court of the county wherein the property is located, naming the condemnor as defendant. Such action shall be the only manner in which any issue other than the amount of just compensation or other than proceedings to perfect title under ss. 32.11 and 32.12 may be raised pertaining to the condemnation of the property described in the jurisdictional offer. The trial of the issues raised by the pleadings in such action shall be given precedence over all other actions in said court then not on trial. If such action is not commenced within the time limited the owner or other person having any interest in the property shall be forever barred from raising any such objection in any other manner. The commencement of an action by an owner under this subsection shall not prevent a condemnor from filing the petition provided for in sub. (7) and proceeding thereon. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to limit in any respect the right to determine the necessity of taking as conferred by s. 32.07 nor to prevent the condemnor from proceeding with condemnation during the pendency of the action to contest the right to condemn. This section shall not apply to any owner who had a right to bring a proceeding pursuant to s. 66.431 (7), 1959 stats., prior to its repeal by chapter 526, laws of 1961, effective on October 8, 1961, and, in lieu of this section, s. 66.431 (7), 1959 stats., as it existed prior to such effective date of repeal shall be his exclusive remedy.

**(6) ACCEPTANCE OF JURISDICTIONAL OFFER.** The owner has 20 days from the date of personal service of the jurisdictional offer or 20 days from the date of postmark of the certified mail letter transmitting such offer or 20 days from the date of filing the final judgment order or remittitur in the circuit court of the county in

an action commenced under sub (5), if the judgment permits the taking of the land, in which to accept the jurisdictional offer and deliver the same to the condemnor. If the offer is accepted, the transfer of title shall be accomplished within 60 days after acceptance including payment of the consideration stipulated in such offer unless such time is extended by mutual written consent of the condemnor and condemnee. If the jurisdictional offer is rejected in writing by all of the owners of record the condemnor may proceed to petition in condemnation forthwith. If the owner fails to convey the condemnor may proceed as hereinafter set forth.

**(7) PETITION FOR CONDEMNATION PROCEEDINGS.** If the jurisdictional offer is not accepted within the periods limited in sub. (6) or the owner fails to consummate an acceptance as provided in sub. (6), the condemnor may present a verified petition to the circuit court for the county in which the property to be taken is located, for proceedings to determine the necessity of taking, where such determination is required, and the amount of just compensation. The petition shall state that the jurisdictional offer required by sub. (3) has been made and rejected; that it is the intention of the condemnor in good faith to use the property or right therein for the specified purpose. It shall name the parties having an interest of record in the property as near as may be and shall name the parties who are minors or persons of unsound mind or unknown. The petition may not disclose the amount of the jurisdictional offer, and if it does so it is a nullity. The petition shall be filed with the clerk of the court. Notice of the petition shall be given as provided in s. 32.05 (4) to all persons having an interest of record in the property, including the special guardian appointed for minors or incompetent persons. A lis pendens shall be filed on the date of filing the petition. The date of filing the lis pendens is the "date of evaluation" of the property for the purpose of fixing just compensation, except that if the property is to be used in connection with the construction of a facility, as defined under s. 196.491 (1), the "date of evaluation" is the date that the first advance plan identifying the property as a site or route under s. 196.491 (2) (a) 3 is filed with the public service commission, or the date which is 2 years prior to the date the certificate of public convenience and necessity is issued for the facility, whichever is earlier. The hearing on the petition may not be earlier than 20 days after the date of its filing unless the petitioner acquired possession of the land under s. 32.12 (1) in which event this hearing is not necessary. If the petitioner is entitled to condemn the property or any portion of it, the

judge immediately shall assign the matter to the chairman of the county condemnation commissioners for hearing under s. 32.08. An order by the judge determining that the petitioner does not have the right to condemn or refusing to assign the matter to the chairman of the county condemnation commissioners may be appealed directly to the court of appeals.

**(8) COMMISSION HEARING.** Thereafter the commission shall proceed in the manner and with the rights and duties as specified in s. 32.08 to hear the matter and make and file its award with the clerk of the circuit court, specifying therein the property or interests therein taken and the compensation allowed the owner, and the clerk shall give certified mail notice with return receipt requested of such filing, with a copy of the award to condemnor and owner.

**(9) ABANDONMENT OF PROCEEDINGS; OR PAYMENT OF AWARD.** (a) Within 30 days after the date of filing of the commission's award, the condemnor shall petition the circuit court for the county wherein the property is situated, upon 5 days' notice by certified mail to the owner, for leave to abandon the petition for taking if the condemnor desires to abandon the proceeding. The circuit court shall grant the petition upon such terms as it deems just, and shall make a formal order discontinuing the proceeding which order shall be recorded in the judgment record of the court after the record of the commission's award. The order shall operate to divest any title of condemnor to the lands involved and to automatically discharge the lis pendens.

(b) If condemnor does not elect to abandon the condemnation proceeding as provided in par. (a), it shall within 70 days after the date of filing of the commission's award, pay the amount of the award, plus legal interest from the date of taking but less delinquent tax liens, proportionately allocated as in division in redemption under ss. 74.06, 74.32 and 75.01 when necessary and less prorated taxes of the year of taking, if any, likewise proportionately allocated when necessary, to the owner and take and file his receipt therefor with the clerk of the circuit court, or at the option of the condemnor pay the same into the office of the clerk of the circuit court for the benefit of the parties having an interest of record on the date of evaluation in the property taken and give notice thereof by certified mail to such parties. If the condemnor pays the amount of said award within 14 days after the date of filing of the commission's award, no interest shall accrue. Title to the property taken shall vest in the condemnor upon the filing of such receipt or the making of such payment.

(c) No person occupying real property may be required to move from a dwelling or move his or her business or farm without at least 90 days' written notice of the intended vacation date from the condemnor. The person shall have rent-free occupancy of the acquired property for a period of 30 days commencing with the next 1st or 15th day of the month after title vests in the condemnor, whichever is sooner. Any person occupying the property after the date that title vests in the condemnor is liable to the condemnor for all waste committed or allowed by the occupant on the lands condemned during the occupancy. The condemnor has the right to possession when the persons who occupied the acquired property vacate, or hold over beyond the vacation date established by the condemnor, whichever is sooner, except that the condemnor may not require the persons who occupied the premises on the date title vested in the condemnor to vacate until a comparable replacement property is made available. If the condemnor is denied the right of possession, the condemnor may, upon 48 hours' notice to the occupant, apply to the circuit court where the property is located for a writ of assistance to be put in possession. The circuit court shall grant the writ of assistance if all jurisdictional requirements have been complied with, if the award has been paid or tendered as required and if the condemnor has made a comparable replacement property available to the occupants. In this paragraph, "condemnor" has the meaning given in s. 32.185.

**(10) APPEAL TO CIRCUIT COURT.** Within 60 days after the date of filing of the commission's award either condemnor or owner may appeal to the circuit court by giving notice of appeal to the opposite party and to the clerk of the circuit court as provided in s. 32.05 (10). The clerk shall thereupon enter the appeal as an action pending in said court with the condemnee as plaintiff and the condemnor as defendant. It shall thereupon proceed as an action in said court subject to all the provisions of law relating to actions brought therein, but the only issues to be tried shall be questions of title, if any, as provided by ss. 32.11 and 32.12 and the amount of just compensation to be paid by condemnor, and it shall have precedence over all other actions not then on trial. It shall be tried by jury unless waived by both plaintiff and defendant. The amount of the jurisdictional offer or of the commission's award shall not be disclosed to the jury during such trial.

(a) If the jury verdict as approved by the court exceeds the commission's award, the owner shall have judgment increased by the amount of legal interest from the date title vests in condemnor to date of entry of judgment on the

excess of the verdict over the compensation awarded by the commission.

(b) If the jury verdict as approved by the court does not exceed the commission's award, the condemnor shall have judgment against the owner for the difference between the verdict and the amount of the commission's award, with legal interest on such difference from the date condemnor paid such award.

(c) If the jury verdict as approved by the court exceeds the amount of the jurisdictional offer, the condemnor may within 40 days after filing of such verdict petition the court for leave to abandon the proceeding and thereafter sub. (9) (a) shall apply.

(d) All judgments required to be paid shall be paid within 60 days after entry of judgment unless within this period appeal is taken to the court of appeals or unless condemnor has petitioned for and been granted an order abandoning the condemnation proceeding. Otherwise such judgment shall bear interest from the date of entry of judgment at the rate of 10% per year until payment.

**(11) WITHDRAWAL OF COMPENSATION PAID INTO COURT; BOND.** If either party appeals from the award of the commission, the owner shall not be entitled to receive the amount of compensation paid into court by condemnor unless the owner files with the clerk of the court a surety bond executed by a licensed corporate surety company in an amount equal to one-half of the commission's award, conditioned to pay to the condemnor, any sums together with interest and costs as allowed by the court, by which the award of the commission may be diminished.

**(12) EFFECT OF DETERMINATION OF COMPENSATION BY THE COURT WHERE JURY WAIVED.** If the action is tried by the court upon waiver of a jury, the determination of the amount of the damages by the court shall be considered in lieu of the words "jury verdict as approved by the court" where such language occurs in this section.

**History:** 1973 c. 244; 1975 c. 68, 410, 422; 1977 c. 29; 1977 c. 187 s. 134; 1977 c. 438, 440, 447, 449; 1979 c. 37; 1979 c. 110 s. 60 (13); 1981 c. 390; 1983 a. 27; 1983 a. 219 ss. 4, 46; 1983 a. 236 s. 13; 1983 a. 302 s. 8.

A failure to negotiate is not shown where condemnor made an offer based on a competent appraisal which was lower than condemnee had already rejected and condemnee refused to make a counter proposal. *Herro v. Natural Resources Bd.* 53 W (2d) 157, 192 NW (2d) 104.

A news report of the amount of the jurisdictional offer does not invalidate the proceedings where the record does not show that the condemnation commission knew of it or was influenced by it. *Herro v. Natural Resources Bd.* 53 W (2d) 157, 192 NW (2d) 104.

Costs may not be recovered where condemnation proceedings are stopped by court order. *Martineau v. State Conservation Comm.* 54 W (2d) 76, 194 NW (2d) 664.

The issues of title and navigability were entirely collateral to the amount of compensation. When the condemnation proceeding was terminated, the issues collateral thereto were

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likewise dismissed. *Martineau v. State Conservation Comm.* 66 W (2d) 439, 225 NW (2d) 613.

Owner contesting condemnation under (5) on grounds that achievement of stated public purpose is too remote or contingent must demonstrate lack of reasonable assurance that intended use will come to pass. *Falkner v. Northern State Power Co.* 75 W (2d) 116, 248 NW (2d) 885.

Condemnor did not exercise condemnation powers when it made jurisdictional offer. Lessee's share of condemnation award discussed. See note to 32.10 citing *Maxey v. Redevelopment Authority of Racine*, 94 W (2d) 375, 288 NW (2d) 794 (1980).

Notice of appeal under (10) and unit rule discussed. *Green Bay Broadcasting v. Green Bay Authority*, 116 W (2d) 1, 342 NW (2d) 27 (1983).

Statutory restrictions on the exercise of eminent domain in Wisconsin: Dual requirements of prior negotiation and provision of negotiating materials. 63 MLR 489 (1980).

New development in law of eminent domain, condemnation and relocation. Thiel WBB June, 1979.

**32.07 Necessity, determination of.** The necessity of the taking shall be determined as follows:

(1) A certificate of public convenience and necessity issued under s. 196.491 shall constitute the determination of the necessity of the taking for any lands or interests described in the certificate.

(1m) When an advance plan submitted under s. 196.491 has been approved by the public service commission, the submitting utility shall determine the necessity of taking limited interests for the purpose of conducting tests or studies under s. 32.02 (6) and (10) (b) in real or personal property described in the plan.

(2) The petitioner shall determine necessity if application is by the state or any commission, department, board or other branch of state government or by a city, village, town, county, board, commission, public officer, commission created by contract under s. 66.30, redevelopment authority created under s. 66.431, housing authority created under ss. 66.40 to 66.404 or for the right-of-way of a railroad or a street or interurban railway up to 100 feet in width, for a telegraph, telephone or other electric line, for the right-of-way for a gas pipeline, main or service or for easements for the construction of any elevated structure or subway for railroad, street or interurban railway purposes.

(3) In all other cases, the judge shall determine the necessity.

(4) The determination of the public service commission of the necessity of taking any undeveloped water power site made pursuant to s. 32.03 (3) shall be conclusive.

**History:** 1973 c. 305; 1975 c. 68; 1979 c. 175 s. 53; 1981 c. 346; 1983 a. 27.

Public utility need only show that the property sought to be condemned is reasonably necessary, reasonably requisite and proper for the accomplishment of the desired public purpose. *Falkner v. Northern States Power Co.* 75 W (2d) 116, 248 NW (2d) 885.

**32.075 Use after condemnation. (1)** In this section, "public utility" has the meaning given under s. 196.01 (5).

(2) Whenever the public service commission has made a finding, either with or without hearing, that it is reasonably certain it will be necessary for a public utility to acquire lands or interests therein for the purpose of the conveyance of telegraph and telephone messages, or for the production, transformation or transmission of electric energy for the public, or for right-of-way for a gas pipeline, main or service, and that such public utility is unlikely to commence construction of its facilities upon such lands within 2 years of such finding, such public utility may file its petition and proceed with condemnation as prescribed in s. 32.06 and no further determination of necessity shall be required. When the lands to be condemned under this subsection are needed for rights-of-way for telegraph, telephone or electric lines or pipelines, it shall not be necessary that the particular parcel or parcels of land be described in the commission's finding, but it shall be sufficient that such finding described the end points of any such lines and the general direction or course of the lines between the end points, but when the public utility files its petition under s. 32.06 it shall specifically describe therein the lands to be acquired. Notwithstanding the completion of the condemnation proceedings and the payment of the award made under this subchapter, the owner may continue to use the land until such time as the public utility constructs its facilities thereon.

(3) (a) The public service commission shall notify by certified mail any person whose ownership interest in the property was terminated by condemnation by a public utility under this chapter if all of the following occur:

1. The public utility's legal title was obtained after May 1, 1984, solely by a condemnation award under s. 32.06.

2. The public service commission revokes a certificate of public convenience and necessity required under s. 196.491 (3) (a) or finds that a state or federal agency has denied or revoked any license, permit, certificate or other requirement on which completion of the public utility's project for which the land was condemned is contingent or that the public utility has for any other reason abandoned a project for which the condemned property was acquired.

3. The public utility within 365 days after issuance of the public service commission denial, revocation or finding under subd. 2 has not proposed, by application to the commission, an alternative use for the property or the public

service commission has denied an alternative use proposed by the public utility.

(b) If the person is a minor or incompetent, the notice under par. (a) shall be to the special guardian appointed for the person. The notice under par. (a) shall state that the person, or, if the person is deceased, the person's heirs, may petition the circuit court of the county in which the property is located, within 90 days after receipt of the notice, for an order to require the public utility to return the interest in the property to the petitioner. The circuit court shall grant the petition and shall make a formal order returning the petitioner's interest in the property. The order shall operate to divest any title of the public utility to the property subject to the petition and to automatically discharge any lis pendens filed in relation to the condemnation of the property.

(c) An order issued under par. (b) shall direct that:

1. The public utility return the petitioner's ownership interest in the property.

2. The public utility remove any lien or other encumbrance that may have accrued or been assessed since acquisition by the public utility.

3. The petitioner pay to the public utility the fair market value of the property returned to the petitioner under the order, which fair market value shall be determined under a method prescribed by the court.

4. The public utility pay its prorated share of any real estate or ad valorem taxes due on the date of the order.

5. If requested by the petitioner, the public utility pay for all costs for return of property to a reasonable topographic configuration or the condition the property was in at the time the public utility first acquired the property, as established by the court and subject to applicable land use restrictions.

6. The public utility remove from the property, at the option of the petitioner but at no expense or inconvenience to the petitioner, all buildings, equipment and other materials placed on the property by the public utility.

(d) In an order issued under par. (b), the court may award the petitioner court costs and reasonable attorney fees and may include in the order any other terms that it deems just and reasonable.

**History:** 1979 c. 110; 1983 a. 236 s. 12; 1983 a. 338, 538.

**32.08 Commissioner of condemnation. (1)**

The office of commissioner of condemnation is created. In counties having a population of less than 100,000 there shall be 6 commissioners; in counties having a population of 100,000 or more and less than 500,000 there shall be 9 commissioners; in counties having a population

of 500,000 or more there shall be 12 commissioners. Each such commissioner must be a resident of the county or of an adjoining county in the same judicial circuit prior to his appointment and remain so during his term of office. Not more than one-third of such commissioners shall be attorneys at law, licensed for active practice in this state.

(2) Such commissioners shall be appointed by the circuit judge or judges of the circuit court for such county and may be removed by said judge or judges at their pleasure. Where any county has more than one circuit judge, the affirmative vote of a majority of such judges shall be necessary to an appointment or a removal. All appointments and removals shall be filed with the clerk of the circuit court for the county. Each commissioner shall take and file the official oath. The first appointments after April 6, 1960 shall be made for staggered terms of 1, 2 and 3 years as fixed by the circuit judge. Thereafter all appointments shall be made for 3-year terms. Vacancies shall be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term.

(3) The commissioners in each county shall annually elect one of their number as chairman, and he shall select and notify the commissioners to serve on each commission of 3 required to sit in condemnation.

(4) Commissioners shall receive no salary but shall be compensated for actual service at an hourly rate to be fixed by the county board of the county. Commissioners shall also receive mileage at a rate fixed by the county board for necessary and direct round trip travel from their homes to the place where the condemnation commission conducts its hearings. The chairman of the county commission shall receive such reasonable sum, computed at the hourly rate as fixed by the county board, as shall be allowed by the circuit judge having jurisdiction over the hearing, for his or her administrative work in selecting and notifying the commissioners to serve in the condemnation hearing and his or her necessary out-of-pocket expenses in connection with the hearing. All such compensation and expenses shall be paid by the condemnor on order approved by the circuit judge.

(5) If the petitioner under s. 32.06 is entitled to condemn the property or any portion of it or interest therein, the circuit judge having jurisdiction of the petition, or to whom an application for county commissioner of condemnation review is taken from a highway taking award, shall assign the matter to the chairman of the county condemnation commissioners who shall within 7 days select 3 of the commissioners to serve as a commission to ascertain the compensation to be made for the taking of the property

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or rights in property sought to be condemned, fix the time and place of the hearing before the commission, which time shall not be less than 20 nor more than 30 days after the assignment date, and notify the parties in interest thereof. The judge's order of assignment shall be accompanied by a copy of the petition for condemnation. Notice shall be given to each interested person or, where the persons have appeared in the proceeding by an attorney then to the attorney, by certified mail with return receipt requested, postmarked at least 10 days prior to the date of hearing. If any party cannot be found and has not appeared in the proceedings, a class 3 notice shall be published, under ch. 985, in the community which the chairman of the condemnation commission directs. Costs of notification shall be paid by the petitioner upon certification by the commission chairman.

(6) (a) At the hearing the commissioners shall first view the property sought to be condemned and then hear all evidence desired to be produced. The condemnee shall present his testimony first and have the right to close. In conducting said hearing the commission shall not be bound by common law or statutory rules of evidence. It shall admit all testimony having reasonable probative value, but shall exclude immaterial, irrelevant and unduly repetitious testimony. The amount of a prior jurisdictional offer or award shall not be disclosed to the commission. It shall give effect to the rules of privilege recognized by law. Basic principles of relevancy, materiality and probative force, as recognized in equitable proceedings, shall govern the proof of all questions of fact. The commission may on its own motion adjourn such hearing once for not more than 7 days, but may by stipulation of all parties grant other adjournments. A majority of the commissioners, being present, may determine all matters.

(b) If either party desires that the proceedings by the commission be transcribed, the commission may order the same and the applicant shall pay the cost thereof. Within 10 days after the conclusion of such hearing the commission shall make a written award specifying therein the property taken and the compensation, and file such award with the clerk of the circuit court, who shall cause a copy thereof to be mailed to each party in interest and record the original in the judgment record of such court. The commission shall file with the clerk of the court a sworn voucher for the compensation due each member, which sum, upon approval by the circuit judge, shall be paid by the condemnor.

**History:** 1977 c. 449; 1983 a. 302 s. 8.

The failure of the condemnation commissioners to file their award within 10 days did not deprive it of jurisdiction.

*Herro v. Natural Resources Bd.* 53 W (2d) 157, 192 NW (2d) 104.

**32.09 Rules governing determination of just compensation.** In all matters involving the determination of just compensation in eminent domain proceedings, the following rules shall be followed:

(1) The compensation so determined and the status of the property under condemnation for the purpose of determining whether severance damages exist shall be as of the date of evaluation as fixed by s. 32.05 (7) (c) or 32.06 (7).

(1m) As a basis for determining value, a commission in condemnation or a court may consider the price and other terms and circumstances of any good faith sale or contract to sell and purchase comparable property. A sale or contract is comparable within the meaning of this subsection if it was made within a reasonable time before or after the date of evaluation and the property is sufficiently similar in the relevant market, with respect to situation, usability, improvements and other characteristics, to warrant a reasonable belief that it is comparable to the property being valued.

(2) In determining just compensation the property sought to be condemned shall be considered on the basis of its most advantageous use but only such use as actually affects the present market value.

(2m) In determining just compensation for property sought to be condemned in connection with the construction of facilities, as defined under s. 196.491 (1), any increase in the market value of such property occurring after the date of evaluation but before the date upon which the lis pendens is filed under s. 32.06 (7) shall be considered and allowed to the extent it is caused by factors other than the planned facility.

(3) Special benefits accruing to the property and affecting its market value because of the planned public improvement shall be considered and used to offset the value of property taken or damages under sub. (6), but in no event shall such benefits be allowed in excess of damages described under sub. (6).

(4) If a depreciation in value of property results from an exercise of the police power, even though in conjunction with the taking by eminent domain, no compensation may be paid for such depreciation except as expressly allowed in subs. (5) (b) and (6) and s. 32.19.

(5) (a) In the case of a total taking the condemnor shall pay the fair market value of the property taken and shall be liable for the items in s. 32.19 if shown to exist.

(b) Any increase or decrease in the fair market value of real property prior to the date of evaluation caused by the public improvement



for which such property is acquired, or by the likelihood that the property would be acquired for such improvement, other than that due to physical deterioration within the reasonable control of the owner, may not be taken into account in determining the just compensation for the property.

(6) In the case of a partial taking of property other than an easement, the compensation to be paid by the condemnor shall be the greater of either the fair market value of the property taken as of the date of evaluation or the sum determined by deducting from the fair market value of the whole property immediately before the date of evaluation, the fair market value of the remainder immediately after the date of evaluation, assuming the completion of the public improvement and giving effect, without allowance of offset for general benefits, and without restriction because of enumeration but without duplication, to the following items of loss or damage to the property where shown to exist:

(a) Loss of land including improvements and fixtures actually taken.

(b) Deprivation or restriction of existing right of access to highway from abutting land, provided that nothing herein shall operate to restrict the power of the state or any of its subdivisions or any municipality to deprive or restrict such access without compensation under any duly authorized exercise of the police power.

(c) Loss of air rights.

(d) Loss of a legal nonconforming use.

(e) Damages resulting from actual severance of land including damages resulting from severance of improvements or fixtures and proximity damage to improvements remaining on condemnee's land. In determining severance damages under this paragraph, the condemnor may consider damages which may arise during construction of the public improvement, including damages from noise, dirt, temporary interference with vehicular or pedestrian access to the property and limitations on use of the property. The condemnor may also consider costs of extra travel made necessary by the public improvement based on the increased distance after construction of the public improvement necessary to reach any point on the property from any other point on the property.

(f) Damages to property abutting on a highway right of way due to change of grade where accompanied by a taking of land.

(g) Cost of fencing reasonably necessary to separate land taken from remainder of condemnee's land, less the amount allowed for fencing taken under par. (a), but no such damage shall be allowed where the public improve-

ment includes fencing of right of way without cost to abutting lands.

(6g) In the case of the taking of an easement, the compensation to be paid by the condemnor shall be determined by deducting from the fair market value of the whole property immediately before the date of evaluation, the fair market value of the remainder immediately after the date of evaluation, assuming the completion of the public improvement and giving effect, without allowance of offset for general benefits, and without restriction because of enumeration but without duplication, to the items of loss or damage to the property enumerated in sub. (6) (a) to (g) where shown to exist.

(6r) (a) In the case of a taking of an easement in lands zoned or used for agricultural purposes, for the purpose of constructing or operating a high-voltage transmission line, as defined in s. 196.491 (1) (f), or any petroleum or fuel pipeline, the offer under s. 32.05 (2a) or 32.06 (2a), the jurisdictional offer under s. 32.05 (3) or 32.06 (3), the award of damages under s. 32.05 (7), the award of the condemnation commissioners under s. 32.05 (9) or 32.06 (8) or the assessment under s. 32.57 (5), and the jury verdict as approved by the court under s. 32.05 (10) or (11) or 32.06 (10) or the judgment under s. 32.61 (3) shall specify, in addition to a lump sum representing just compensation under sub. (6) for outright acquisition of the easement, an amount payable annually on the date therein set forth to the condemnee, which amount represents just compensation under sub. (6) for the taking of the easement for one year.

(b) The condemnee shall choose between the lump sum and the annual payment method of compensation at such time as the condemnee accepts the offer, award or verdict, or the proceedings relative to the issue of compensation are otherwise terminated. Selection of the lump sum method of payment shall irrevocably bind the condemnee and successors in interest.

(c) 1. Except as provided under subd. 2, if the condemnee selects the annual payment method of compensation, the fact of such selection and the amount of the annual payment shall be stated in the conveyance or an appendix thereto which shall be recorded with the register of deeds. The first annual payment shall be in addition to payment of any items payable under s. 32.19. Succeeding annual payments shall be determined by multiplying the amount of the first annual payment by the quotient of the state assessment under s. 70.575 for the year in question divided by the state assessment for the year in which the first annual payment for that easement was made, if the quotient exceeds one. A condemnee who selects the annual payment method of compensation, or any successor in

interest, may at any time, by agreement with the condemnor or otherwise, waive in writing his or her right, or the right of his or her successors in interest, to receive such payments. Any successor in interest shall be deemed to have waived such right until the date on which written notice of his or her right to receive annual payments is received by the condemnor or its successor in interest.

2. If lands which are zoned or used for agricultural purposes and which are condemned and compensated by the annual payment method of compensation under this paragraph are no longer zoned or used for agricultural purposes, the right to receive the annual payment method of compensation for a high-voltage transmission line easement shall cease and the condemnor or its successor in interest shall pay to the condemnee or any successor in interest who has given notice as required under subd. 1 a single payment equal to the difference between the lump sum representing just compensation under sub. (6) and the total of annual payments previously received by the condemnee and any successor in interest.

(7) In addition to the amount of compensation paid pursuant to sub. (6), the owner shall be paid for the items provided for in s. 32.19, if shown to exist, and in the manner described in s. 32.20.

(8) A commission in condemnation or a court may in their respective discretion require that both condemnor and owner submit to the commission or court at a specified time in advance of the commission hearing or court trial, a statement covering the respective contentions of the parties on the following points:

- (a) Highest and best use of the property.
  - (b) Applicable zoning.
  - (c) Designation of claimed comparable lands, sale of which will be used in appraisal opinion evidence.
  - (d) Severance damage, if any.
  - (e) Maps and pictures to be used.
  - (f) Costs of reproduction less depreciation and rate of depreciation used.
  - (g) Statements of capitalization of income where used as a factor in valuation, with supporting data.
  - (h) Separate opinion as to fair market value, including before and after value where applicable by not to exceed 3 appraisers.
  - (i) A recitation of all damages claimed by owner.
  - (j) Qualifications and experience of witnesses offered as experts.
- (9) A condemnation commission or a court may make regulations for the exchange of the

statements referred to in sub. (8) by the parties, but only where both owner and condemnor furnish same, and for the holding of prehearing or pretrial conference between parties for the purpose of simplifying the issues at the commission hearing or court trial.

**History:** 1975 c. 68, 191, 410, 425; 1977 c. 438, 440; 1983 a. 236

In proceedings under 84.09 (3m), Stats. 1961, where a strip of land was taken and access to a loading dock restricted because the highway was depressed, plaintiff could recover damages for loss of access because the police power was not involved under 32.09 (4). *Crown Zellerbach Corp. v. Milw. City Dev. Dept.* 47 W (2d) 142, 177 NW (2d) 94.

While the general rule is that evidence of net income is inadmissible to establish fair market value, that rule does not preclude admission of net income under certain circumstances for certain purposes, including impeachment, refreshing the recollection of a witness, or where proper objection is not timely made. *Mancheski v. State*, 49 W (2d) 46, 181 NW (2d) 420.

The closing of an intersection under the police power does not require compensation so long as access to property is preserved, because there is no property right to the flow of traffic. *Schneider v. State*, 51 W (2d) 458, 187 NW (2d) 172.

It is error to receive testimony of an appraiser who made his appraisal 10 months before the date of taking and acknowledged that the value had changed in the 10 months but could not update his appraisal. *Schey Enterprises, Inc. v. State*, 52 W (2d) 361, 190 NW (2d) 149.

Where a partial taking eliminates a sewer connection, the condemnor must pay the owner's expense of connecting to another sewer, even though the taking was an exercise of the police power. *Hanser v. Metropolitan Sewerage Dist.* 52 W (2d) 429, 190 NW (2d) 161.

Admissibility of opinion evidence as to probability of laying out a road, zoning changes and sanitary facilities discussed. *Bembinster v. State*, 57 W (2d) 277, 203 NW (2d) 897.

Damages caused by change of the grade of a street or highway where no land is taken constitutes an exercise of police power which is separate and distinct from the exercise of power of eminent domain under (6) (f) and is only compensable under 32.18. *Jantz v. State*, 63 W (2d) 404, 217 NW (2d) 266.

Inconvenience is a factor only when the landowner's property rights in the remaining portion are so impaired that the owner has, in effect, had that portion taken also. *DeBruin v. Green County*, 72 W (2d) 464, 241 NW (2d) 167.

An owner's opinion as to the value of real estate can be accepted but in order to support a verdict some basis for the opinion must be shown. *Genge v. Baraboo*, 72 W (2d) 531, 241 NW (2d) 183.

Requirement that property be valued as an integrated and comprehensive entity does not mean that the individual components of value may not be examined or considered in arriving at an overall fair market value. *Milw. & Sub. Trans. v. Milw. County*, 82 W (2d) 420, 263 NW (2d) 503.

Existing right of access in 32.09 (6) (b) includes right of abutting property owner to ingress and egress, and right to be judged on criteria for granting permits for access points under 86.07 (2). Restriction of access was compensable taking. *Narloch v. Department of Transportation*, 115 W (2d) 419, 340 NW (2d) 542 (1983).

Owner of condemned property is not entitled to cost of developing functionally equivalent substitute facilities. *United States v. 564 54 Acres of Land*, 441 US 506 (1979).

**32.10 Condemnation proceedings instituted by property owner.** If any property has been occupied by a person possessing the power of condemnation and if the person has not exercised the power, the owner, to institute condemnation proceedings, shall present a verified petition to the circuit judge of the county wherein the land is situated asking that such proceedings be commenced. The petition shall describe the land, state the person against which the con-

demnation proceedings are instituted and the use to which it has been put or is designed to have been put by the person against which the proceedings are instituted. A copy of the petition shall be served upon the person who has occupied petitioner's land, or interest in land. The petition shall be filed in the office of the clerk of the circuit court and thereupon the matter shall be deemed an action at law and at issue, with petitioner as plaintiff and the occupying person as defendant. The court shall make a finding of whether the defendant is occupying property of the plaintiff without having the right to do so. If the court determines that the defendant is occupying such property of the plaintiff without having the right to do so, it shall treat the matter in accordance with the provisions of this subchapter assuming the plaintiff has received from the defendant a jurisdictional offer and has failed to accept the same and assuming the plaintiff is not questioning the right of the defendant to condemn the property so occupied.

**History:** 1973 c. 170; Sup. Ct. Order, 67 W (2d) 749; 1975 c. 218; 1977 c. 440; 1983 a. 236 s. 12.

A cause of action under this section arises prior to the actual condemnation of the property by the highway commission if the complaint alleges facts which indicate the property owner has been deprived of all, or substantially all, of the beneficial use of his property. *Howell Plaza, Inc. v. State Highway Comm.* 66 W (2d) 720, 226 NW (2d) 185.

A landowner's petition for inverse condemnation, like a municipality's petition for condemnation, is not subject to demurrer. *Revival Center Tabernacle v. Milwaukee*, 68 W (2d) 94, 227 NW (2d) 694.

See note to Art. I, sec. 13, citing *Howell Plaza, Inc. v. State Highway Comm.* 92 W (2d) 74, 284 NW (2d) 887 (1979).

Taking occurred when city refused to renew lessee's theater license, not when city made jurisdictional offer. Property is valued as of date of taking. *Maxey v. Redevelopment Authority of Racine*, 94 W (2d) 375, 288 NW (2d) 794 (1980).

See note to Art. I, sec. 13, citing *Zinn v. State*, 112 W (2d) 417, 334 NW (2d) 67 (1983).

**32.11 Trial of title.** If any defect of title to or encumbrance upon any parcel of land is suggested upon any appeal, or if any person petitions the court in which an appeal is pending setting up a claim adverse to the title set out in said petition to said premises and to the money or any part thereof to be paid as compensation for the property so taken, the court shall thereupon determine the question so presented. Judgment shall be entered on such determination, with costs to the prevailing party. An appeal from such judgment may be taken as from a judgment in an action.

**32.12 Proceedings to perfect title. (1)** If any person having the power to acquire property by condemnation enters into the possession of any property and is using the property for a purpose for which condemnation proceedings might be instituted but has not acquired title to the property, or if the title is defective, or if not in

possession, has petitioned the circuit court as provided by s. 32.06 (7) and for an order as authorized under this section either at the time of filing the petition for condemnation or thereafter, and the necessity for taking has been determined as authorized by law, the person may proceed to acquire or perfect the title as provided in this subchapter or be authorized to enter into possession as provided in this section. At any stage of the proceedings the court in which they are pending may authorize the person, if in possession, to continue in possession, and if not in possession to take possession and have and use the lands during the pendency of the proceedings and may stay all actions or proceedings against the person on account thereof on the paying in court of a sufficient sum or the giving of such securities as the court may direct to pay the compensation therefor when finally ascertained. The "date of taking" in proceedings under this section is the date on which the security required by the order for such security is approved and evidence thereof is filed with the clerk of court. In every such case the party interested in the property may institute and conduct, at the expense of the person, the proceedings to a conclusion if the person delays or omits to prosecute the same.

**(2)** No injunction to restrain such person in his possession of said lands or his use thereof or the operation thereon of any plant, line, railroad or other structure, shall be granted until such compensation has been fixed and determined.

**(3)** In case such person or the person through or under whom he claims title has paid to the owner of such lands or to any former owner thereof, or to any other person having any valid mortgage or other lien thereon, or to any owner, lien holder, mortgagee or other person entitled to any award or part of any award in satisfaction of the whole or any part of such award to which such owner, lien holder, mortgagee or other person may become entitled upon completion of such condemnation proceedings in the manner authorized by this subchapter, such sum with interest thereon from the date of such payment at the rate of 5% per year shall be deducted from the award made by said commissioners to such owners or other person.

**(4)** In case there is a dispute in relation to the payment of any sum as aforesaid or the amount or date of any payment that may have been made, the court or judge thereof shall at the request of any party, award an issue which shall be tried in the same manner as issues of fact in said court and an appeal from the judgment

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thereon may be taken in the same manner as from any judgment.

**History:** 1977 c. 449; 1979 c. 110 s. 60 (13); 1983 a. 236 s. 12.

**32.13 Proceedings when land mortgaged.**

Whenever any person has acquired title to any property for which it could institute condemnation proceedings and said property is subject to any mortgage or other lien and proceedings have been afterwards commenced by the holders of any such mortgage or lien to enforce the same, the court in which such proceedings are pending may on due notice appoint 3 commissioners from among the county commissioners created by s. 32.08 to appraise and value said property in the manner prescribed in this subchapter as of the time when such person acquired title. Such appraisal shall be exclusive of the improvements made by such person or his predecessors. Said appraisal, with interest, when confirmed by said court shall stand as the maximum amount of the encumbrance chargeable to the property so taken and judgment shall be rendered according to equity for an amount not exceeding such appraisal, with interest, against such person and may be enforced as in other cases. On the payment of such amount such person shall hold said property free and discharged from said mortgage or lien. An appeal may be taken from the award of such commission by the plaintiff and tried and determined as an appeal from the county condemnation commissioners under this subchapter and the action to enforce such mortgage or lien shall in the meantime be stayed.

**History:** 1983 a. 236 s. 12.

**32.14 Amendments.** The court or judge may at any time permit amendments to be made to a petition filed pursuant to s. 32.06, amend any defect or informality in any of the proceedings authorized by this subchapter and may cause any parties to be added and direct such notice to be given to any party of interest as it deems proper.

**History:** 1983 a. 236 s. 12.

**32.15 How title in trustee acquired.** In case any title or interest in real estate lawfully required by any person having the power of condemnation is vested in any trustee not authorized to sell, release and convey the same or in any minor or person adjudged mentally incompetent, the circuit court may in a summary proceeding authorize and empower such trustee or the general guardian of such minor or person adjudged mentally incompetent to sell and convey the same for the purposes required on such terms as may be just. If such minor or person

adjudged mentally incompetent has no general guardian, the court may appoint a special guardian for such sale, release or conveyance. The court may require from such trustee, or general or special guardian, such security as it deems proper before any conveyance or release authorized in this section is executed. The terms of the same shall be reported to the court on oath. If the court is satisfied that such terms are just to the party interested in such real estate, it shall confirm the report and direct the conveyance or release to be executed. Such conveyance or release shall have the same effect as if executed by one having legal power to sell and convey the land.

**History:** 1977 c. 83.

**32.16 Abandonment of easements for public use.**

An easement for public use acquired by gift or purchase or by condemnation under this subchapter shall not be deemed abandoned on the grounds of nonuser thereof for any period less than that prescribed in the applicable statutes of limitations in ch. 893. Nothing contained in this section shall be presumed to adversely affect any highway right possessed by the state or any county or municipality thereof.

**History:** 1983 a. 236 s. 12.

**32.17 General provisions. (1)** Where power of condemnation is given to a state officer the title acquired shall be in the name of the state. Payments of the costs and expenses of such condemnation shall be paid from the appropriation covering the purposes for which the property is acquired.

**(2)** Any condemnation proceedings authorized under any local or special law of this state, except those applicable to cities of the 1st class, shall be conducted under the procedure provided in this subchapter.

**(3)** Where disbursements and costs, including expert witness fees and reasonable actual attorney's fees in case of abandonment of proceedings by the condemnor are recoverable from a condemnor under this subchapter, they shall be recoverable from the state or any of its agencies when the state or such agency is the condemnor.

**History:** 1983 s. 236 s. 12.

**32.18 Damage caused by change of grade of street or highway where no land is taken; claim; right of action.** Where a street or highway improvement project undertaken by the department of transportation, a county, city, town or village, causes a change of the grade of such street or highway in cases where such grade was not previously fixed by city, village or town ordinance, but does not require a taking of any abutting lands, the owner of such lands

at the date of such change of grade may file with the department of transportation in the case of state trunk highways, a county in the case of county highways or the city, town or village, causing such change of grade to be effected, whichever has jurisdiction over the street or highway, a claim for any damages to said lands occasioned by such change of grade. Special benefits may be offset against any claims for damages under this section. Such claim shall be filed within 90 days following the completion of said project; if allowed, it shall be paid in the case of the department of transportation, out of the state highway funds, otherwise, out of the funds of the respective county, city, village or town against which the claim is made as the case may be. If it is not allowed within 90 days after such date of filing it shall be deemed denied. Thereupon such owner may within 90 days following such denial commence an action against the department of transportation, the city, county, village or town as the case may be, to recover any damages to the lands shown to have resulted from such change of grade. Any judgment recovered against the department of transportation shall be paid out of the state highway funds, otherwise out of the funds of city, county, village or town against which the judgment is recovered. Where a grade has been established by ordinance, the property owner's remedy shall be as provided by municipal law. This section shall in no way contravene, limit or restrict s. 88.87.

**History:** 1977 c. 29 s. 1654 (8) (c); 1977 c. 273.

**32.185 Condemnor.** "Condemnor", for the purposes of ss. 32.19 to 32.27, means any municipality, board, commission, public officer or corporation vested with the power of eminent domain which acquires property for public purposes either by negotiated purchase when authorized by statute to employ its powers of eminent domain or by the power of eminent domain.

**History:** 1975 c. 224.

**32.19 Additional items payable. (1) DECLARATION OF PURPOSE.** The legislature declares that it is in the public interest that persons displaced by any public project be fairly compensated by payment for the property acquired and other losses hereinafter described and suffered as the result of programs designed for the benefit of the public as a whole; and the legislature further finds and declares that, notwithstanding subch. II, or any other provision of law, payment of such relocation assistance and assistance in the acquisition of replacement housing are proper costs of the construction of public improvements. If the public improve-

ment is funded in whole or in part by a nonlapsible trust, the relocation payments and assistance constitute a purpose for which the fund of the trust is accountable.

**(2) DEFINITIONS.** In this section and ss. 32.25 to 32.27:

(a) "Business" means any lawful activity, excepting a farm operation, conducted primarily:

1. For the purchase, sale, lease or rental of personal and real property, and for the manufacture, processing, or marketing of products, commodities, or any other personal property;

2. For the sale of services to the public;

3. By a nonprofit organization; or

4. Solely for the purpose of sub. (3) for assisting in the purchase, sale, resale, manufacture, processing, or marketing of products, commodities, personal property, or services by the erection and maintenance of an outdoor advertising display or displays, whether or not such display or displays are located on the premises on which any of the above activities are conducted.

(b) "Comparable dwelling" means one which, when compared with the dwelling being taken, is substantially equal concerning all major characteristics and functionally equivalent with respect to: the number and size of rooms and closets, area of living space, type of construction, age, state of repair, size and utility of any garage or other outbuilding, type of neighborhood and accessibility to public services and places of employment. "Comparable dwelling" shall meet all of the standard building requirements and other code requirements of the local governmental body and shall also be decent, safe and sanitary as defined by the department of industry, labor and human relations.

(c) "Comparable replacement business" means a replacement business which, when compared with the business premises being acquired by the condemnor, is adequate for the needs of the business, is reasonably similar in all major characteristics, is functionally equivalent with respect to condition, state of repair, land area, building square footage required, access to transportation, utilities and public service, is available on the market, meets all applicable federal, state or local codes required of the particular business being conducted, is within reasonable proximity of the business acquired and is suited for the same type of business conducted by the acquired business at the time of acquisition.

(d) "Comparable replacement farm operation" means a replacement farm operation which, when compared with the farm operation being acquired by the condemnor, is adequate for the needs of the farmer, is reasonably similar

in all major characteristics, is functionally equivalent with respect to type of farm operation, condition and state of repair of farm buildings, soil quality, yield per acre, land area, access to transportation, utilities and public services, is within reasonable proximity of the acquired farm operation, is available on the market, meets all applicable federal, state or local codes required of the particular farm operation acquired and is suited for the same type of farming operation conducted by the displaced person at the time of acquisition.

(e) "Displaced person" means any person who moves from real property or who moves personal property from real property, on or after July 1, 1970, as a result of the acquisition of the real property, in whole or in part or subsequent to the issuance of a jurisdictional offer under this subchapter, for public purposes or, as the result of the acquisition for public purposes of other real property on which the person conducts a business or farm operation or, who moves or discontinues business, or moves other personal property, or moves from a dwelling on or after April 12, 1972 as a direct result of any project or program undertaken under title I of the federal housing act of 1949, as amended, or as a result of carrying out a comprehensive city demonstration program under title I of the federal demonstration cities and metropolitan development act of 1966.

(f) "Farm operation" means any activity conducted solely or primarily for the production of one or more agricultural products or commodities for sale and home use, and customarily producing such products or commodities in sufficient quantity to be capable of contributing materially to the operator's support.

(g) "Owner displaced person" means a displaced person who owned the real property being acquired and also owned the business or farm operation conducted on the real property being acquired.

(h) "Person" means:

1. Any individual, partnership, corporation or association which owns a business concern; or

2. Any owner, part owner, tenant or sharecropper operating a farm; or

3. An individual who is the head of a family; or

4. An individual not a member of a family, except that 2 or more tenant occupants of the same dwelling unit shall be considered as one person.

(i) "Tenant displaced person" means a displaced person who owned the business or farm operation conducted on the real property being acquired but leased or rented the real property.

(2m) INFORMATION ON PAYMENTS. Before initiating negotiations to acquire the property under s. 32.05 (2a), 32.06 (2a) or subch. II, the condemnor shall provide displaced persons with copies of applicable pamphlets prepared under s. 32.26 (6).

(3) RELOCATION PAYMENTS. Any condemnor which proceeds with the acquisition of real and personal property for purposes of any project for which the power of condemnation may be exercised, shall make fair and reasonable relocation payments to displaced persons, business concerns and farm operations under this section. Payments shall be made as follows:

(a) *Moving expenses, actual.* The condemnor shall compensate a displaced person for his actual and reasonable expenses in moving himself, his family, his business or his farm operation, including personal property; actual direct losses of tangible personal property as a result of moving or discontinuing a business or farm operation, but not to exceed an amount equal to the reasonable expenses that would have been required to relocate such property; and actual reasonable expenses in searching for a replacement business or farm.

(b) *Moving expenses, optional fixed payments.* 1. Dwellings. Any displaced person who moves from a dwelling and who elects to accept the payments authorized by this paragraph in lieu of the payments authorized by par. (a) may receive a moving expense allowance, determined according to a schedule established by the condemnor not to exceed \$300 and dislocation allowance of \$200.

2. Business and farm operations. Any displaced person who moves or discontinues his business or farm operation and who elects to accept payment authorized under this paragraph in lieu of the payment authorized under par. (a), may receive a fixed payment in an amount equal to the average annual net earnings of the business or farm operation, except that such payment shall not be less than \$2,500 nor more than \$10,000. In the case of a business, no payment shall be made under this subsection unless the condemnor is satisfied that the business:

a. Is not able to be relocated without a substantial loss of its existing patronage; and

b. Is not part of a commercial enterprise having at least one other establishment, not being acquired by the condemnor which is engaged in the same or similar business. For the purpose of this subsection, the term "average annual net earnings" means one-half of any net earnings of the business or farm operation, before payment of federal, state and local income taxes, during the 2 taxable years immediately preceding the taxable year in which such

business or farm operation moves from the real property acquired for such project, or during such other period as the condemnor determines to be more equitable for establishing such earnings. "Average annual net earnings" includes any compensation paid by the business or farm operation to the owner or the owner's spouse or dependents during such 2-year period. To be eligible for the payment authorized by this subsection, the business or farm operation shall make its state and federal income tax returns available and its financial statements and accounting records available for audit to determine the payment authorized by this subsection.

**NOTE:** Subd. par. b is shown as affected by 1983 Wis. Act 186, eff. 1-1-86, which replaced "his spouse" with "or the owner's spouse" and "his dependents" with "dependents".

(c) *Optional payment for businesses.* Any displaced person who moves his business, and elects to accept the payment authorized in par. (a), may, if otherwise qualified under par. (b) 2, elect to receive the payment authorized under par. (b) 2, minus whatever payment he received under par. (a), if he discontinues his business within 2 years of the date of receipt of payment under par. (a), provided that he has suffered a substantial loss of existing patronage. In no event shall the total combined payment be less than \$2,500 nor more than \$10,000.

**(4) REPLACEMENT HOUSING.** (a) *Owner-occupants.* In addition to amounts otherwise authorized by this subchapter, the condemnor shall make a payment, not to exceed \$25,000, to any displaced person who is displaced from a dwelling actually owned and occupied, or from a mobile home site actually owned or occupied, by the displaced person for not less than 180 days prior to the initiation of negotiations for the acquisition of the property. For the purposes of this paragraph, a nonprofit corporation organized under ch. 181 may, if otherwise eligible, be considered a displaced owner. A displaced owner may elect to receive the payment under par. (b) 1 in lieu of the payment under this paragraph. Such payment includes only the following:

1. The amount, if any, which when added to the acquisition payment, equals the reasonable cost of a comparable replacement dwelling available on the private market, as determined by the condemnor.

1m. In the case of a person displaced from a mobile home site, the amount, if any, which when added to the trade-in or salvage value of the mobile home equals the reasonable cost of a comparable mobile home which is decent, safe and sanitary, plus an amount equal to 48 times the difference between the monthly rent being paid for the site on which the mobile home is

located and the monthly rent for a comparable mobile home site or the amount necessary to enable the displaced person to make a down-payment on the purchase of a comparable mobile home site, provided that the owner of a mobile home shall be eligible for such payments only if: a) the mobile home is not considered to be a decent, safe and sanitary dwelling unit; or b) the structural condition of the mobile home is such that it cannot be moved without substantial damage or unreasonable cost; or c) there are no adequate or available replacement sites to which the mobile home can be moved. If a comparable mobile home dwelling is not available, the replacement housing payment shall be calculated on the basis of the next highest type of mobile home or a conventional dwelling that is available and meets the requirements and standards for a comparable dwelling.

2. The amount of increased interest expenses incurred by the owner to finance the purchase of another property substantially similar to the property taken provided that: a) at the time of the taking the land acquired was subject to a bona fide mortgage or was held under a vendee's interest in a bona fide land contract; and b) such mortgage or land contract had been executed in good faith not less than 180 days prior to the initiation of the attempt to purchase such property. The computation of the increased interest costs shall be based upon and limited to:

a. An amount equal to the excess in the aggregate interest and other debt service costs of that amount of indebtedness not to exceed the unpaid debt at the date of taking.

b. A term not to exceed the remaining term of the original mortgage or land contract at the date of taking.

c. An interest rate not to exceed the prevailing rate charged by mortgage lending institutions doing business in the vicinity.

d. The present worth of the future payments of increased interest computed at the prevailing interest rate paid on savings deposits by commercial banks doing business in the vicinity.

3. Reasonable incidental fees, commissions, discounts, surveying costs, title evidence costs and other closing costs incurred in the purchase of replacement housing, but not including prepaid expenses.

(ag) *Limitation.* Payment under par. (a) shall be made only to a displaced person who purchases and occupies a decent, safe and sanitary replacement dwelling not later than one year after the date on which the person moves from the dwelling acquired for the project, or the date on which the person receives payment from the condemnor, whichever is later.

(b) *Tenants and certain others.* In addition to amounts otherwise authorized by this subchapter, the condemnor shall make a payment to any individual or family displaced from any dwelling which was actually and lawfully occupied by such individual or family for not less than 90 days prior to the initiation of the attempt to purchase such property. For purposes of this paragraph, a nonprofit corporation organized under ch. 181 may, if otherwise eligible, be considered a displaced tenant. Subject to the limitations under par. (bm), such payment shall be either:

1. The amount, if any, which, when added to the rental cost of the acquired dwelling, equals the reasonable cost of leasing or renting a comparable dwelling available on the private market for a period not to exceed 4 years, as determined by the condemnor, but not to exceed \$8,000; or

2. If the person elects to purchase a comparable dwelling:

a. The amount determined under subd. 1 plus expenses under par. (a) 3, if the amount determined under subd. 1 is \$4,000 or more; or

b. The amount necessary to enable the person to make a downpayment on the purchase of a comparable dwelling plus expenses under par. (a) 3, if the amount determined under subd. 1 is less than \$4,000, but not to exceed \$4,000.

(bm) *Limitations.* 1. Payment under par. (b) shall be made only to a displaced person who rents, leases or purchases a decent, safe and sanitary replacement dwelling and occupies that dwelling not later than one year after the date on which the person moves from the dwelling acquired for the project.

2. If the amount of payment determined under par. (b) 2 exceeds \$2,000, the displaced person must equally match the excess over \$2,000.

(c) *Additional payment.* If a comparable dwelling is not available within the monetary limits established in par. (a) or (b), the condemnor may exceed the monetary limits and make payments necessary to provide a comparable dwelling.

(4m) **BUSINESS OR FARM REPLACEMENT PAYMENT.** (a) *Owner-occupied business or farm operation.* In addition to amounts otherwise authorized by this subchapter, the condemnor shall make a payment, not to exceed \$50,000, to any owner displaced person who has owned and occupied the business operation, or owned the farm operation, for not less than one year prior to the initiation of negotiations for the acquisition of the real property on which the business or farm operation lies, and who actually purchases a comparable replacement business or farm operation for the acquired property

within 2 years after the date the person vacates the acquired property or receives payment from the condemnor, whichever is later. An owner displaced person who has owned and occupied the business operation, or owned the farm operation, for not less than one year prior to the initiation of negotiations for the acquisition of the real property on which the business or farm operation lies may elect to receive the payment under par. (b) 1 in lieu of the payment under this paragraph, but the amount of payment under par. (b) 1 to such an owner displaced person may not exceed the amount the owner displaced person is eligible to receive under this paragraph. The additional payment under this paragraph shall include the following amounts:

1. The amount, if any, which when added to the acquisition cost of the property (other than any dwelling on the property) equals the reasonable cost of a comparable replacement business or farm operation for the acquired property, as determined by the condemnor.

2. The amount, if any, which will compensate such owner displaced person for any increased interest cost which such person is required to pay for financing the acquisition of any replacement property, if the property acquired was encumbered by a bona fide mortgage or land contract which was a valid lien on the property for at least one year prior to the initiation of negotiations for its acquisition. The amount under this subdivision shall be equal to the excess in the aggregate interest and other debt services cost of that amount of the principal of the mortgage on the replacement property which is equal to the unpaid balance of the mortgage on the acquired property, reduced to discounted present value. The discount rate shall be the prevailing interest rate paid on demand deposit savings accounts in commercial banks in the general area where the replacement property is located.

3. Reasonable expenses incurred by the displaced person for evidence of title, recording fees and other closing costs incident to the purchase of the replacement property, but not including prepaid expenses.

(b) *Tenant-occupied business or farm operation.* In addition to amounts otherwise authorized by this subchapter, the condemnor shall make a payment to any tenant displaced person who has owned and occupied the business operation, or owned the farm operation, for not less than one year prior to initiation of negotiations for the acquisition of the real property on which the business or farm operation lies, and who actually rents or purchases a comparable replacement business or farm operation for the displaced business or farm operation within 2 years after the date the person vacates the



acquired property. At the option of the tenant displaced person, such payment shall be either:

1. The amount, not to exceed \$30,000, which is necessary to lease or rent a comparable replacement business or farm operation for a period of 4 years. The payment shall be computed by determining the average monthly rent paid for the property from which the person was displaced for the 12 months prior to the initiation of negotiations and the monthly rent of a comparable replacement business or farm operation, and multiplying the difference by 48; or

2. The amount, not to exceed the amount which the tenant displaced person is eligible to receive under subd. 1, which is necessary for a downpayment to obtain conventional financing toward the purchase of a comparable replacement business or farm operation, including:

a. An amount equal to \$10,000 or the amount necessary for the downpayment, whichever is less;

b. If the amount necessary for the downpayment is greater than \$10,000, an additional amount, not to exceed \$10,000, which is equal to the amount matched by the tenant displaced person; and

c. The expenses under par. (a) 3.

(5) EMINENT DOMAIN. Nothing in this section or ss. 32.25 to 32.27 shall be construed as creating in any condemnation proceedings brought under the power of eminent domain, any element of damages.

**History:** 1971 c. 99, 103, 244, 287; 1973 c. 192; 1975 c. 224, 273; 1977 c. 418, 438, 440; 1979 c. 32, 221, 358, 361; 1981 c. 390 s. 252; 1983 a. 27 ss. 881 to 888; 1983 a. 186, 189; 1983 a. 236 ss. 12, 13; 1983 a. 538.

See note to Art. I, sec. 13, citing *Luber v. Milwaukee County*, 47 W (2d) 271, 177 NW (2d) 380.

The payments provided for in this section apply to all property acquisitions including those under the Kline law 58 Atty Gen 152.

A lessee under lease for more than one year is a joint owner of real property within the intent of this section, and is eligible to receive relocation assistance payments provided by (4) (c) 61 Atty Gen 16.

Question of whether ch. 103, laws of 1971, places Wisconsin in compliance with the uniform relocation assistance and real property acquisition policies act of 1970, P.L. 91-646, discussed. 61 Atty Gen 49.

Discussion of whether Wisconsin can comply with the federal relocation assistance and property acquisition act 61 Atty Gen 197.

State debt financing of relocation payments is permissible under art. VIII, sec. 7 (2) (a) 62 Atty Gen 42.

Relocation benefits and services, where owner initiates negotiations for the acquisition, discussed. 62 Atty Gen 168.

State agencies engaging in advance land acquisitions must comply with this section et seq., Wisconsin's relocation assistance and payment law. 63 Atty Gen 201.

Wisconsin condemners are not bound by the federal relocation act. Relocation assistance and payments to displaced persons must be made in accordance with 32.19 to 32.27. Unrelated individuals who share a common dwelling for convenience sake without a common head of the household are persons under this section. 63 Atty Gen 229.

See note to 38.14, citing 63 Atty Gen 367, concerning VTAE districts.

Religious societies incorporated under ch. 187 are "persons" within the meaning of the relocation assistance act and

are entitled to the benefits of such act if they otherwise qualify 63 Atty Gen 578.

Owner of rental property, regardless of its size, is engaged in "business" under (2) (d) 69 Atty Gen 11.

Owners of rental property who do not physically occupy real property taken for public use are not eligible for business replacement payments under (4m) 69 Atty Gen 263.

Condemnors may not offer displaced persons a loan or alternative assistance in lieu of payments. Condemnors may not obtain waivers of benefits as condition for participation in acquisition program 70 Atty Gen 94.

Tenant who rents new property in reasonable anticipation of displacement prior to actual displacement is entitled to replacement payments under (4m) (b) 70 Atty Gen 120.

There was no constitutional "taking" where tenants were ordered to vacate temporarily their uninhabitable dwelling to permit repairs pursuant to housing code *Devines v. Maier*, 728 F (2d) 876 (1984).

Compensation for lost rents 1971 WLR 657.

**32.195 Expenses incidental to transfer of property.** In addition to amounts otherwise authorized by this subchapter, the condemnor shall reimburse the owner of real property acquired for a project for all reasonable and necessary expenses incurred for:

(1) Recording fees, transfer taxes and similar expenses incidental to conveying such property.

(2) Penalty costs for prepayment of any mortgage entered into in good faith encumbering such real property if the mortgage is recorded or has been filed for recording as provided by law prior to the date specified in s. 32.19 (4) (a) 2.

(3) The proportional share of real property taxes paid which are allocable to a period subsequent to the date of vesting of title in the condemnor or the effective date of possession of such real property by the condemnor, whichever is earlier.

(4) The cost of realigning personal property on the same site in partial takings or where realignment is required by reason of elimination or restriction of existing used rights of access.

(5) Expenses incurred for plans and specifications specifically designed for the property taken and which are of no value elsewhere because of the taking.

(6) Reasonable net rental losses where a) the losses are directly attributable to the public improvement project and b) such losses are shown to exceed the normal rental or vacancy experience for similar properties in the area.

(7) Cost of fencing reasonably necessary pursuant to s. 32.09 (6) (g) shall, when incurred, be payable in the manner described in s. 32.20.

**History:** 1973 c. 192 ss. 4, 6; 1979 c. 110 s. 60 (10); 1983 a. 236 s. 12.

**32.196 Relocation payments not taxable.** Except for reasonable net rental losses under s. 32.195 (6), no payments received under s. 32.19 or 32.195 may be considered income for the purposes of ch. 71; nor may such payments be considered income or resources to any recipient

of public assistance and such payments shall not be deducted from the amount of aid to which the recipient would otherwise be entitled under any welfare law.

**History:** 1983 a. 27 s. 888.

**32.197 Waiver of relocation assistance.** An owner-occupant of property being acquired may waive his or her right to receive any relocation payments or services under this subchapter if the property being acquired is not contiguous to any property which may be acquired by the condemnor and is not part of a previously identified or proposed project where it is reasonable to conclude that acquisition by the condemnor may occur in the foreseeable future. Prior to the execution of any waiver under this section, the condemnor shall provide to the owner-occupant, in writing, full information about the specific payments and services being waived by the owner-occupant. The department of industry, labor and human relations shall by rule establish procedures for relocation assistance waivers under this section to ensure that the waivers are voluntarily and knowledgeably executed.

**History:** 1983 a. 27; 1983 a. 236 s. 12.

**32.20 Procedure for collection of itemized items of compensation.** Claims for damages itemized in ss. 32.19 and 32.195 shall be filed with the department of transportation or other public body, board, commission or utility, which is carrying on the project through which condemnor's or claimant's claims arise. All such claims must be filed after the damages upon which they are based have fully materialized but in no event later than 2 years after the condemnor takes physical possession of the entire property acquired. If such claim is not allowed within 90 days after the filing thereof, the claimant shall have a right of action against the condemnor, or in case no condemnation is involved against the department of transportation or public body, board, commission or utility, which is carrying on the project through which the claim arises. Such action shall be commenced in a court of record in the county wherein the damages occurred. In causes of action, involving any state commission, board or other agency, excluding counties, the sum recovered by the claimant shall be paid out of any funds appropriated to such condemning agency. Any judgment shall be appealable by either party and any amount recovered by the body against which the claim was filed, arising from costs, counterclaims, punitive damages or otherwise may be used as an offset to any amount owed by it to the claimant, or may be

collected in the same manner and form as any other judgment.

**History:** 1977 c. 29 s. 1654 (8) (c); 1981 c. 249. Statute mandates procedure for making any and all claims by condemnors. *Rotter v. Milw. County Exp. & Trans. Comm.* 72 W (2d) 553, 241 NW (2d) 440.

**32.21 Emergency condemnation.** Whenever any lands or interest therein are urgently needed by any state board, or commission, or other agency of the state, and a contract for the purchase or use of the property cannot be made for a reasonable price, or for any other reason, including the unavailability of the owner or owners, the board, commission or agency may, with the approval of the governor, issue an award of damages and upon tender of the award to the owner or owners, or deposit in a court of record in the county where the lands are situated in cases where an owner is not available or tender is refused, take immediate possession of said property. Deposit in a court of record may be made by registered mail addressed to the clerk of the court. The governor shall determine whether or not such an award shall issue. Appeal from said award of damages will lie as in other similar cases and all provisions of this subchapter shall govern, except as to the provision herein concerning the immediate issuance of the award tender and immediate possession.

**History:** 1981 c. 390 s. 252; 1983 a. 236 s. 12.

**32.22 Special procedure for immediate condemnation. (1) DEFINITIONS.** In this section, unless the context requires otherwise:

(a) "Abandoned" means unoccupied for a period of 60 days or more, without any credible evidence that the owner intends to restore the property to significant use.

(b) "Municipality" means a city, a village, a housing authority created under ss. 66.40 to 66.404, a redevelopment authority created under s. 66.431 or a community development authority created under s. 66.4325.

(c) "Owner" means any person holding record title in the property.

(d) "Residential" means used principally for dwelling purposes.

**(2) APPLICABILITY.** Any municipality may use the procedures in this section for the condemnation of abandoned residential property, in lieu of the procedures in s. 32.06. Any 1st class city may use the procedures in this section for the condemnation of abandoned residential property, in lieu of the procedures in subch. II. The procedures in this section may only be used to acquire all of the property in a single parcel. Except as provided in sub. (12), the procedures in this section may not be used by a municipality to acquire abandoned residential property

for any purpose which requires the razing of the residential building.

**(3) DETERMINATION OF NECESSITY OF TAKING.** The necessity of taking shall be determined under s. 32.07.

**(4) APPRAISAL; INFORMATION ON ABANDONMENT; WARRANT.** (a) 1. The municipality shall prepare one or more appraisals of any abandoned residential property proposed to be acquired under this section. In preparing any appraisal under this paragraph, the appraiser shall confer with the owner or the owner's representative, if either can be located with reasonable diligence. The condemnor shall provide the owner with a full narrative appraisal upon which the petition under sub. (5) is based and a copy of any other appraisal made under this paragraph and at the same time shall inform the owner of his or her right to obtain an appraisal under subd. 2.

2. The owner may obtain an appraisal by a qualified appraiser of all property proposed to be acquired. The owner may submit the reasonable costs of the appraisal to the condemnor for payment, along with a copy of the owner's full narrative appraisal and evidence of the owner's payment for the appraisal within 60 days after the petition is filed under sub. (5). After receipt of the statement of appraisal costs, proof of payment and a copy of the appraisal, the municipality shall promptly reimburse the owner for the reasonable costs of the appraisal. The condemnor shall not be required to reimburse more than one owner under this subdivision for an appraisal relating to the condemnation under this section of any single parcel of real estate. If record title exists in more than one person, the person obtaining reimbursement under this subdivision shall provide a copy of the owner's appraisal to each other person who is an owner, as defined in sub. (1) (c).

(b) Before submitting the petition under sub. (5), the municipality shall ascertain that the property has been abandoned, as defined in sub. (1) (a), and shall note any other evidence of abandonment, such as unlocked doors, unlocked or broken windows and screens, lack of gas, electric or water service, absence of personal belongings in the building and any conditions which render the building untenable.

(c) Prior to entry into any building proposed to be acquired under this section, the condemnor shall obtain a special condemnation warrant under this paragraph. To obtain a special condemnation warrant, the condemnor shall petition the circuit court for the county in which the property proposed to be acquired is located and shall mail a copy of the petition for a warrant under this paragraph by registered or certified mail to the owner's last-known address

if any. The court shall issue the warrant on the condemnor's affidavit that the condemnor intends to condemn the property under this section; that the condemnor has mailed a copy of the petition for the warrant as required in this paragraph; and that an external inspection of the property indicates that it is abandoned.

**(5) PETITION FOR CONDEMNATION PROCEEDINGS.** (a) A municipality may present a verified petition to the circuit court for the county in which the property to be taken is located, for proceedings to take immediate possession of abandoned residential property and for proceedings to determine the necessity of taking, where such determination is required. The compensation offered for the property shall accompany the petition.

(b) The petition shall:

1. Describe the property and interests sought to be acquired.

2. Name all owners of record of the property.

3. State the authority of the municipality to condemn the property.

4. Describe the facts which indicate that property is abandoned.

5. Itemize the compensation offered for the property according to the items of damages under s. 32.09.

6. Describe the condemnor's plan to preserve the property pending rehabilitation.

7. Describe the condemnor's plan to rehabilitate the property and return it to the housing market.

**(6) ACTION ON THE PETITION.** (a) Immediately upon receipt of the petition, the circuit court shall examine the evidence presented by the municipality showing that the property is abandoned. If the circuit court finds that the property is abandoned, the court shall immediately direct the municipality to serve a copy of the petition and a notice on the owner under s. 801.12(1), and to post a copy of the petition and notice on the main entrance to the residential building. The notice shall state that:

1. The owner may accept the compensation offered by filing a petition with the clerk of the court.

2. The owner may commence a court action to contest the right of condemnation as provided in sub. (8) within 40 days from completion of service of process.

3. The owner may appeal for greater compensation without prejudice to the right to use the compensation given by the award under sub. (10) within 2 years from the date of taking of the property.

4. Acceptance of the award is an absolute bar to an action to contest the right of condemnation under sub. (8).

(b) If any owner is a minor or incompetent person, a special guardian shall be appointed under s. 32.05 (4).

**(7) POSSESSION AND PROTECTION OF THE PROPERTY.** Within one working day after the municipality files proof of service of the petition and notice under s. 801.12 (1), the court shall grant the municipality immediate possession of the property. After obtaining the right to possession of the property, the municipality may take any action necessary to protect the property. The municipality shall post a notice on the main entrance to the building directing any occupant of the property to contact the municipality for information on relocation assistance.

**(8) ACTION TO CONTEST RIGHT OF CONDEMNATION.** (a) If an owner desires to contest the right of the condemnor to condemn the property described in the petition, for any reason other than that the amount of compensation offered is inadequate, the owner may within 40 days from the date of service and posting of the notice under sub. (6) commence an action in the circuit court of the county in which the property is located, naming the condemnor as defendant. If the action is based on the allegation that the condemned property is not abandoned as defined in sub. (1), the owner shall demonstrate by a preponderance of the credible evidence that the property is not abandoned.

(b) An action under this subsection shall be the only manner in which any issue other than the amount of just compensation, or other than proceedings to perfect title under ss. 32.11 and 32.12, may be raised pertaining to the condemnation of the property described in the petition. The trial of the issues raised by the pleadings in an action under this subsection shall be given precedence over all other actions in the circuit court then not actually on trial. If the action under this subsection is not commenced within the time limited, or if compensation offered for the condemned property is accepted, the owner or other person having any interest in the property shall be barred from raising any objection to the condemnor's right to condemn the property under this section in any manner.

(c) Nothing in this subsection limits in any respect the right to determine the necessity of taking under s. 32.07. Nothing in this subsection limits the right of the municipality to exercise control over the property under sub. (7).

(d) If the final judgment of the court is that the municipality is not authorized to condemn the property, the court shall award the owner a sum equal to actual damages, if any, caused by the municipality in exercising control over the property, in addition to the amounts provided in s. 32.28.

**(9) PAYMENT OF COMPENSATION; TRANSFER OF TITLE.** (a) If the owner accepts the compensation offered, or if the owner does not accept the compensation offered but no timely action is commenced under sub. (8), or if in an action under sub. (8) the circuit court holds that the municipality may condemn the property, the court shall order the title transferred to the municipality and the compensation paid to the owner.

(b) The clerk of court shall give notice of the order under par. (a) by certified mail, or by a class 3 notice under ch. 985, if any owner cannot be found, or any owner's address is unknown. The notice shall indicate that the owner may receive his or her proper share of the award by petition to and order of the court. The petition may be filed with the clerk of the court without fee.

**(10) ACTION TO CONTEST AMOUNT OF COMPENSATION.** Within 2 years after the date of taking under this section, an owner may appeal from the award using the procedures in s. 32.05 (9) to (12) and chs. 808 and 809 without prejudice to the owner's right to use the compensation received under sub. (9) pending final determination under this subsection. For purposes of this subsection, the "date of taking" and the "date of evaluation" shall be the date of filing the petition in circuit court under sub. (5). For the purposes of this subsection, the "basic award" shall be the amount paid into the circuit court by the municipality under sub. (5). If the owner is successful on the appeal and the circuit court awards an amount higher than the basic award, the court shall award the owner the amounts provided in s. 32.28.

**(11) CLAIMS BY OCCUPANTS.** (a) If within 2 years after the petition is filed by the municipality, any person claims to have been a lawful occupant of the property condemned on the date the petition was filed, that individual may submit a request for relocation assistance under s. 32.25 to the municipality. The municipality shall, within 30 days after receipt of the request, either grant this request or apply to the circuit court for the county in which the property is located for a resolution of the claim.

(b) If an application is made to the circuit court under par. (a), the court shall conduct a hearing and determine whether the claimant had a lawful right to occupy the property and whether the claimant actually occupied the property on the date the petition was filed. If the court finds in favor of the claimant, the court shall direct the municipality to provide the relocation assistance and other aid available under s. 32.25 to a displaced person at the time of condemnation, unless the municipality aban-

dons the proceedings and the claimant is able to resume occupancy of the property.

(c) No determination by a court under par. (b) in favor of a claimant affects the right of the municipality to condemn the property under this section in any case in which the owner accepts the compensation offered by the municipality or in which the claim under par. (a) is made after the latest date on which the owner could have filed an action under sub. (8).

**(12) DISPOSITION OF CONDEMNED PROPERTY.**

(a) Nothing in this section requires the municipality to rehabilitate a residential building, if it appears at any time that total cost of rehabilitation, including structural repairs and alterations, exceeds 80% of the estimated fair market value of the building when rehabilitation is complete. If the municipality determines under this paragraph not to rehabilitate a residential building condemned under this section, the municipality shall sell the building to any nonprofit corporation organized under ch. 181 or any cooperative organized under ch. 185 which:

1. Offers to purchase the building within 60 days after the municipality determines not to rehabilitate the building for an amount which is not less than the amount paid by the municipality to acquire the building from the previous owner under this section;

2. Agrees to submit to the municipality its plans to rehabilitate the building within 3 months after the date on which the nonprofit corporation or cooperative acquires title to the building, to commence significant rehabilitation activities within 6 months after that date and to complete the rehabilitation program and return the building to residential use within 18 months after that date; and

3. Agrees to execute a quitclaim deed returning the property to the municipality without compensation or reimbursement if the nonprofit corporation or cooperative fails to satisfy any of the requirements of subd. 2.

(b) If the municipality undertakes and completes the rehabilitation of any residential building acquired under this section, the municipality shall:

1. Sell, lease or otherwise convey the rehabilitated building to any person authorized to exercise condemnation powers under this section.

2. Sell the rehabilitated building to any person not authorized to exercise condemnation powers under this section. If the condemnor sells the building to any person not authorized to exercise condemnation powers under this section, the sale price shall be not less than fair market value of the rehabilitated building at the time of the sale.

(c) If a residential building is not rehabilitated or conveyed under par. (a) or (b), the municipality may use the property condemned under this section for any lawful purpose, including any purpose which requires razing of the building.

**History:** 1979 c. 37; 1983 a. 219 s. 46; 1983 a. 236 s. 13

**NOTE:** Chapter 37, laws of 1979, which created this section, gives the legislative intent in section 1.

**32.25 Relocation payment plan and assistance services.**

(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, except as provided under s. 85.09 (4g) and (4m), no condemnor may proceed with any property acquisition activities on any project which may involve acquisition of property and displacement of persons, business concerns or farm operations until the condemnor has filed in writing a relocation payment plan and relocation assistance service plan and has had both plans approved in writing by the department of industry, labor and human relations.

(2) The relocation assistance service plan shall contain evidence that the condemnor has taken reasonable and appropriate steps to:

(a) Determine the cost of any relocation payments and services or the methods that are going to be used to determine such costs.

(b) Assist owners of displaced business concerns and farm operations in obtaining and becoming established in suitable business locations or replacement farms.

(c) Assist displaced owners or renters in the location of comparable dwellings.

(d) Supply information concerning programs of federal, state and local governments which offer assistance to displaced persons and business concerns.

(e) Assist in minimizing hardships to displaced persons in adjusting to relocation.

(f) Secure, to the greatest extent practicable, the coordination of relocation activities with other project activities and other planned or proposed governmental actions in the community or nearby areas which may affect the implementation of the relocation program.

(g) Determine the approximate number of persons, farms or businesses that will be displaced and the availability of decent, safe and sanitary replacement housing.

(h) Assure that, within a reasonable time prior to displacement, there will be available, to the extent that may reasonably be accomplished, housing meeting the standards established by the department of industry, labor and human relations for decent, safe and sanitary dwellings. The housing, so far as practicable, shall be in areas not generally less desirable in regard to public utilities, public and commercial

facilities and at rents or prices within the financial means of the families and individuals displaced and equal in number to the number of such displaced families or individuals and reasonably accessible to their places of employment.

**History:** 1971 c. 99, 103; 1979 c. 361; 1983 a. 27, 236

**32.26 Authority of the department of industry, labor and human relations. (1)** In addition to all other powers granted in this subchapter, the department of industry, labor and human relations shall formulate local standards for decent, safe and sanitary dwelling accommodations.

**(2)** The department of industry, labor and human relations may make such rules as are necessary to carry out its functions in regard to local standards for decent, safe and sanitary dwelling accommodations.

**(3)** The department of industry, labor and human relations may make investigations to determine if the condemnor is complying with ss. 32.19 to 32.27. The department may seek an order from the circuit court requiring a condemnor to comply with ss. 32.19 to 32.27 or to discontinue work on that part of the project which is not in substantial compliance with ss. 32.19 to 32.27. The court shall give hearings on these actions precedence on the court's calendar.

**(4)** Upon the request of the department of industry, labor and human relations, the attorney general shall aid and prosecute all necessary actions or proceedings for the enforcement of this subchapter and for the punishment of all violations of this subchapter.

**(5)** Any displaced person may, prior to commencing court action against the condemnor under s. 32.20, petition the department of industry, labor and human relations for review of his or her complaint, setting forth in the petition the reasons for his or her dissatisfaction. The department may conduct an informal review of the situation and attempt to negotiate an acceptable solution. If an acceptable solution cannot be negotiated within 90 days, the department shall notify all parties, and the petitioner may then proceed under s. 32.20. The informal review procedure provided by this subsection is not a condition precedent to the filing of a claim and commencement of legal action pursuant to s. 32.20. In supplying information required by s. 32.25 (2) (d), the condemnor shall clearly indicate to each displaced person his or her right to proceed under this paragraph and under s. 32.20, and shall supply full information on how the displaced person may contact the department of industry, labor and human relations.

**(6)** The department of industry, labor and human relations, with the cooperation of the attorney general, shall prepare pamphlets in simple language and in readable format describing the eminent domain laws of this state, including the reasons for condemnation, the procedures followed by condemnors, how citizens may influence the condemnation process and the rights of property owners and citizens affected by condemnation. The department shall make copies of the pamphlets available to all condemnors, who may be charged a price for the pamphlets sufficient to recover the costs of production.

**(7)** The department of industry, labor and human relations shall provide technical assistance on relocation plan development and implementation to any condemnor carrying out a project which may result in the displacement of any person.

**History:** 1971 c. 103; 1971 c. 211 s. 126; 1977 c. 438, 449; 1979 c. 361; 1983 a. 236 s. 12

**32.27 Records to be kept by condemnor. (1)** CONTENTS OF RECORDS. The condemnor shall maintain records for each project requiring a relocation payment plan. The records shall contain such information as are necessary to carry out ss. 32.19 and 32.25 to 32.27. The records shall be preserved by the condemnor for a period not less than 3 years after conclusion of the project to which the records pertain.

**(2) COSTS OF RELOCATION PAYMENTS AND SERVICES; SHARING FORMULA. (a)** The costs of relocation payments and services shall be computed and paid by the condemnor and included as part of the total project cost.

**(b)** If there is a project cost-sharing agreement between the condemnor and another unit or level of government, the costs of relocation payments and services shall be shared in the same proportion as other project costs unless otherwise provided. This direct proportion formula may be changed to take advantage of federal relocation subsidies. It is intended that the payments and services described by ss. 32.19 to 32.27 are required for any project whether or not it is subject to federal regulation under P.L. 91-646; 84 Stat. 1894. The intent of this paragraph is to assure that condemnors take maximum advantage of federal payment or assistance for relocation, and to ensure that in no event will any displaced person receive a combined payment in excess of payments authorized or required by s. 32.19 or by federal law.

**History:** 1971 c. 103; 1977 c. 418

**32.28 Costs. (1)** In this section, "litigation expenses" means the sum of the costs, disbursements and expenses, including reasonable attor-

ney, appraisal and engineering fees necessary to prepare for or participate in actual or anticipated proceedings before the condemnation commissioners, board of assessment or any court under this chapter.

(2) Except as provided in sub (3), costs shall be allowed under ch. 814 in any action brought under this chapter. If the amount of just compensation found by the court or commissioners of condemnation exceeds the jurisdictional offer or the highest written offer prior to the jurisdictional offer, the condemnee shall be deemed the successful party under s. 814.02 (2).

(3) In lieu of costs under ch. 814, the court shall award litigation expenses to the condemnee if:

(a) The proceeding is abandoned by the condemnor;

(b) The court determines that the condemnor does not have the right to condemn part or all of the property described in the jurisdictional offer or there is no necessity for its taking;

(c) The judgment is for the plaintiff in an action under s. 32.10;

(d) The award of the condemnation commission under s. 32.05 (9) or 32.06 (8) exceeds the jurisdictional offer or the highest written offer prior to the jurisdictional offer by at least \$700 and at least 15% and neither party appeals the award to the circuit court;

(e) The jury verdict as approved by the court under s. 32.05 (11) exceeds the jurisdictional offer or the highest written offer prior to the jurisdictional offer by at least \$700 and at least 15%;

(f) The condemnee appeals an award of the condemnation commission which exceeds the jurisdictional offer or the highest written offer prior to the jurisdictional offer by at least \$700 and at least 15%, if the jury verdict as approved by the court under s. 32.05 (10) or 32.06 (10) exceeds the award of the condemnation commission by at least \$700 and at least 15%;

(g) The condemnor appeals the award of the condemnation commission, if the jury verdict as approved by the court under s. 32.05 (10) or 32.06 (10) exceeds the jurisdictional offer or the highest written offer prior to the jurisdictional offer by at least \$700 and at least 15%;

(h) The condemnee appeals an award of the condemnation commission which does not exceed the jurisdictional offer or the highest written offer prior to the jurisdictional offer by 15%; if the jury verdict as approved by the court under s. 32.05 (10) or 32.06 (10) exceeds the jurisdictional offer or the highest written offer prior to the jurisdictional offer by at least \$700 and at least 15%; or

(i) The condemnee appeals an assessment of damages and benefits under s. 32.61 (3), if the

judgment is at least \$700 and at least 15% greater than the award made by the city.

**History:** 1977 c. 440; 1983 a. 236.

Under (3) (d), the difference between award and offer must meet both \$700 and 15% tests, but the two are not cumulative. Acquisition of Certain Lands by Benson, 101 W (2d) 691, 305 NW (2d) 184 (Ct. App. 1981).

Condemnee may not recover attorney's fees incurred prior to jurisdictional offer. Contingent fee of 40% of award plus interest was reasonable. Condemnor must pay appraiser for time spent as advisor during most of trial. Klunker v State, 109 W (2d) 602, 327 NW (2d) 145 (Ct. App. 1982).

In determining whether litigation expenses were awardable under (3) (d), court considered separate offers for real estate and immovable fixtures to be one offer. "Unit rule of damages" discussed. Green Bay Redevelopment Authority v. Bee Frank, 112 W (2d) 1, 331 NW (2d) 840 (Ct. App. 1983).

Evidentiary hearing on reasonableness of litigation expenses is discretionary, not mandatory. Appellate litigation expenses may be awarded. Narloch v. Department of Transportation, 115 W (2d) 419, 340 NW (2d) 540 (1983).

Trial court did not abuse discretion in awarding attorney fees of \$29,410. Standard Theatres v. Transportation Dept. 118 W (2d) 730, 349 NW (2d) 661 (1984).

**32.29 False statements prohibited.** Any officer, agent or employe of a governmental body or corporation granted condemnation power under s. 32.02 (1) or (3) to (16) who intentionally makes or causes to be made a statement which he or she knows to be false to any owner of property concerning the condemnation of such property or to any displaced person concerning his or her relocation benefits under s. 32.19, 32.20, 32.25 or 32.26 or who fails to provide the information required under s. 32.26 (6) shall be fined not less than \$50 nor more than \$1,000, or imprisoned for not more than one year in the county jail or both.

**History:** 1977 c. 158; 1983 a. 27 s. 879.

## SUBCHAPTER II

### ALTERNATE EMINENT DOMAIN PROCEDURES IN 1ST CLASS CITIES

**32.50 Definitions.** In this subchapter:

(1) "Benefit district" means the area benefitting from and assessed for an improvement under this subchapter.

(2) "Board" means the board of assessment.

(3) "City" means any 1st class city.

(4) "Common council" means the common council of the city.

**History:** 1983 a. 236.

**32.51 Exercise of eminent domain. (1) PURPOSES.** In addition to the powers granted under subch. I, any city may condemn or otherwise acquire property under this subchapter for:

(a) Any purpose stated in article XI, section 3a, of the constitution.

(b) Public alleys, grounds, harbors, libraries, museums, school sites, vehicle parking areas,

airports, markets, hospitals, ward yards, bridges, viaducts, waterworks and water mains.

- (c) Constructing and maintaining sewers.
- (d) Slum elimination.
- (e) Low-income housing.
- (f) Blighted area redevelopment.
- (g) Any other municipal purposes.

(2) **LEVYING ASSESSMENTS.** Any city may levy assessments on property benefited to finance improvements under this subchapter.

History: 1983 a 236, 538.

**32.52 Board of assessment. (1) CREATION.** There is created a board, to which the mayor shall appoint 5 members with the appointments confirmed by the common council. If the common council rejects any appointment, the mayor shall submit a new appointment within 30 days.

(2) **TERMS.** The terms of the first 5 members of the board are staggered at 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 years, each term commencing on January 1 of the year of the appointment. Subsequent appointments occur annually in December to succeed the member whose term expires the following January 1. The term of each subsequent appointment is 5 years, commencing on January 1 following the appointment.

(3) **QUALIFICATIONS OF MEMBERS.** One member shall have a general understanding of real estate values in the city and shall be a real estate broker licensed under s. 452.12 with at least 5 years' experience. One member shall be a civil engineer and have a general understanding of building and construction costs. Three members shall own real property in the city. All members shall be residents and electors of the city.

(4) **ORGANIZATION.** The board shall elect a chairperson to preside over all meetings of the board. The common council shall determine the compensation of each board member and of permanent employes of the board and may increase the compensation provided to full-time board members. The board shall determine the compensation of temporary employes. Permanent or temporary technical advisors and experts of the board are not classified under s. 63.23, but all other clerks and employes of the board are classified under s. 63.23.

(5) **BUDGET PROCESS.** The board shall annually prepare a budget for its operation on or before September 1. The common council may levy an annual tax to support the board's operations. If the common council appropriates funds to the board, the board may draw from the funds only upon written order signed by a board member and the city comptroller.

History: 1983 a 236.

**32.53 Resolution of necessity.** If the common council proposes any public improvement involving the acquisition of private property or the use of public property, it shall pass a resolution by a three-fourths vote of the entire membership of the common council declaring the need to acquire or use certain property for a specified purpose. The common council shall state in its resolution the general nature of the proposed improvement and require the board to submit a report and tentative plan of the proposed improvement to the common council for its approval. The board may require the city engineer to submit to the board a detailed map and description of the property necessary for the proposed improvement plus adjacent property and other surveys, maps, descriptions of property or estimates of cost the board needs to prepare the report and tentative plan.

History: 1983 a 236.

**32.54 Report and tentative plan of improvement. (1) CONTENTS.** The board shall submit to the common council a report and tentative plan of improvement following passage of a resolution under s. 32.53. The report and tentative plan shall include the following:

(a) An estimate of the total cost of the improvement.

(b) A map and description of all property to be taken or used or that may be benefited. The board shall indicate on the map the extent and boundary of the benefit district and a maximum and minimum benefit assessment rate for any representative parcel of property within the benefit district to indicate the estimated amount of the benefits that may be assessed.

(2) **COST ESTIMATE.** The board shall include the value of any city property and the cost of any previously completed improvement it incorporates into the report and tentative plan as part of the estimate of the cost of the improvement. The cost of grading, paving or repaving or laying out or improving any curbs, gutters or sidewalks for which benefits have been legally assessed prior to the adoption of the plan of improvement may not be included in the estimate, the determination of benefits or the cost of the proposed improvement.

History: 1983 a 236.

**32.55 Hearing on the report and tentative plan of improvement. (1) NOTICE.** Upon receiving the report and tentative plan of improvement the common council shall refer the report to a council committee for a public hearing to discuss the tentative plan, the relative costs and benefits and the necessity of the proposed improvement. At least 10 days before the public hearing, the common council shall send notice



of the hearing to the last-known mailing address of any owner of property that may be damaged or benefited by the proposed improvement.

**(2) APPROVAL, REVISION, ABANDONMENT.** (a) After the hearing the common council shall:

1. Approve the report and tentative plan, if it determines that taking the property mentioned in the plan is necessary, and commence implementation of the plan; or

2. Remand the report and tentative plan to the board for reconsideration and revision.

(b) If the common council remands the report and tentative plan, the board shall reconsider the report and tentative plan and submit a revised report and tentative plan to the common council. The common council shall refer the revised report and tentative plan to a council committee for a public hearing as provided in sub. (1). After the hearing, the common council may approve the revised report and tentative plan or revise the report and tentative plan itself and commence implementation of the plan. Instead of approving the original or revised report and tentative plan, the common council may abandon the proposed improvement.

(c) After approving the report and tentative plan the city may begin purchasing property to implement the plan.

**(3) RECORDS.** The city attorney shall file a certified copy of the common council's resolution approving the original or revised report and tentative plan with a description of the property to be condemned plus a map showing the condemned property and the benefit district in the office of the register of deeds of the county in which the property is located.

History: 1983 a. 236.

**32.56 Altering the plan of improvement. (1) PROCEDURE.** The city may alter the plan of improvement after its approval under s. 32.55 (2) at any time prior to the confirmation of the assessment of benefits and damages. The board shall submit to the common council the proposed alteration of the plan plus an amended estimate of the cost and the benefits and an amended map of the proposed improvement. The common council shall approve the alteration by resolution before the alteration is effective. If the city alters the plan while benefits and damages are being assessed under s. 32.57, the board shall reassess benefits and damages based on the altered plan.

**(2) FILING THE ALTERATION.** The city attorney shall file a certified copy of the common council's resolution approving the alteration under sub. (1) plus a description of the alteration in

the office of the register of deeds of the county in which the property is located.

History: 1983 a. 236.

**32.57 Determining benefits and damages.**

**(1) RESOLUTION.** After approving the plan under s. 32.55 (2), the common council may adopt a resolution directing the board to determine the damages to be paid for property condemned and the benefits to be assessed against property benefited within the benefit district. The board shall include the cost of all property acquired by purchase or condemnation for the improvement, as well as the cost of physical improvements that are approved under s. 32.55 (2), in the assessment of benefits and shall report its findings to the common council.

**(2) EXEMPT PROPERTY.** The board may not assess benefits against any property:

(a) Owned exclusively by the federal government.

(b) Purchased by any county at tax sales as provided in s. 75.32.

(c) Owned exclusively by or held in trust exclusively for this state, if exempt from taxation. Land contracted to be sold by this state is not exempt from assessment. State land that is part of a pedestrian mall under s. 66.610 is exempt from assessment only if it is held or used exclusively for highway purposes. State payment of assessments against a pedestrian mall is governed by s. 66.64 (2).

(d) Owned or occupied rent free exclusively by any county, city, village, town, school district or free public library.

(e) Used exclusively for public parks, boulevards or pleasure drives by any city or village.

(f) Owned by a military organization as a public park or memorial ground and not used for profit.

(g) Owned by any religious, charitable, scientific, literary, educational or benevolent association, incorporated historical society or public library association or by any fraternal society, order or association operating under the lodge system if the property is used not for profit or lease exclusively for the purposes of the association and is necessary for the location and convenience of the buildings of the association. This paragraph does not apply to any university, college or high school fraternity or sorority. Property reserved for a chartered college or university is exempt from assessment. Leasing buildings owned by associations listed in this paragraph for schools, public lectures, concerts or parsonage does not waive this exemption from assessment.

(h) Owned by any corporation formed solely to encourage the fine arts without capital stock

and paying no dividends or profits to its members.

(i) Under any endowment or trust for the benefit of a state historical society.

(j) Owned and used exclusively by any state or county agricultural society or by any corporation or association for the encouragement of industry by agricultural and industrial fairs and exhibitions or for exhibition and sale of agricultural and dairy stock, products and property. Real property exempt under this paragraph may not exceed 80 acres. The corporation or association may permit use of this property as places of amusement.

(k) Owned by any cemetery association under s. 157.03 or any other person maintaining a cemetery, including any building located in the cemetery and owned and occupied exclusively by the cemetery association for cemetery purposes or any property held under s. 157.05 or 157.11.

(l) Used as a children's home.

(m) On which a Wisconsin national guard armory is located.

(n) Of any public art gallery to which the public has free access not less than 3 days per week.

(o) Of any religious organization, up to 320 acres, used as a home for the mentally ill, as defined in s. 51.01 (13).

(p) On which is located a memorial hall to members of the armed forces, owned by the Grand Army of the Republic, the Women's Relief Corps, the Sons of Veterans, the United Spanish War Veterans, the American Legion or the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

(q) Owned and used exclusively by any collective bargaining unit established under ch. 111.

(r) Owned and used exclusively by any farmers' organization.

(s) Owned by the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of America.

(t) Owned by an incorporated turner society and used exclusively for educational purposes.

**(3) PRELIMINARY HEARING.** (a) After the city adopts a resolution under sub. (1), the board shall publish a class 3 notice under ch. 985 that at a specified time and place the board shall meet to hear the testimony of any interested party regarding the benefits or damages resulting from the proposed improvement. The notice shall also briefly describe the general nature of the proposed improvement for which the assessment of benefits and damages is to be made and the general boundary line of the benefit district.

(b) At least 12 days before the hearing the board shall commence publishing the class 3 notice and mail a copy of the notice to the last-

known mailing address of any owner of property that may be damaged or benefited by the proposed improvement. The board shall also mail a copy of the notice to a mortgagee of each parcel of property affected by damages. Failure of these notices to reach an owner or mortgagee does not invalidate the assessment of benefits or damages.

(c) The board shall hold the preliminary hearing for at least 3 successive days, Sundays and legal holidays excluded, at which it shall hear testimony and consider evidence on the damages and the benefits resulting from the proposed improvement. Following the testimony, the board shall appraise the damages to property to be condemned by the proposed improvement. The board shall add the damages, the estimated expense of the proposed improvement and the cost of the proceedings and shall apportion the total cost among the property benefited in proportion to the benefits resulting from the proposed improvement. The board shall reduce its assessment of benefits to real property remaining of a larger parcel from which a portion has been given or dedicated for use as part of the proposed improvement by the reasonable value of the real property given or dedicated.

**(4) TENTATIVE ASSESSMENT OF BENEFITS AND DAMAGES.** The damages appraised under sub. (3)(c) are the compensation to all owners of the property. The board shall state separately the assessment of benefits to each piece of property. The board shall balance the appraisal of damages against any assessment of benefits to remaining property and record the difference.

**(5) REVIEW HEARING.** (a) After tentatively assessing benefits and damages under sub. (4), the board shall commence publishing a class 3 notice under ch. 985 stating that the tentative assessment is complete and will be open for review at a certain time and place. The notice shall also include the information required under sub. (3)(a).

(b) At least 18 days before the review hearing the board shall publish the notice and shall mail a copy of the notice as specified in sub. (3)(b). Failure of these notices to reach an owner or mortgagee does not invalidate the assessment of benefits and damages.

(c) The board shall hold the review hearing for at least 2 days, at which it shall hear testimony and consider evidence on the amount of benefits and damages assessed.

(d) Following the review hearing the board shall review the testimony and evidence received and determine its final assessment of benefits and damages. The board shall list its final assessment of benefits and damages separately and shall also list the difference between

the benefits and damages to each parcel of property, so that the owner pays or receives only the difference. The board shall report its final assessment in writing to the common council.

(6) COMMON COUNCIL HEARING. (a) The common council shall record the date the final assessment report is submitted under sub. (5) (d) in its journal with a brief statement describing for what purpose and in what general locality the assessment has been made. The common council may not act upon the report until the day after the report's submission.

(b) The common council may confirm the assessment or remand the assessment to the board for revision and correction. If the common council remands the assessment to the board, the board shall review, correct and revise the assessment by holding a public hearing and providing notice of the hearing under sub. (3), reappraising damages and benefits under sub. (4) and allowing review of the revised assessment under sub. (5). The common council shall hear the revised assessment under this subsection. If the common council fails to confirm the assessment or remand the assessment to the board for revision and correction, it shall adopt a resolution terminating the project. Termination does not prevent the city from including the same property in a subsequent public improvement that involves the same or another municipal purpose.

(7) RECORDS. (a) After confirming the assessment under sub. (6) (b) the common council shall deliver a certified copy of the assessment to both the city treasurer and the city comptroller.

(b) The city attorney shall file with the register of deeds a certified copy of the resolution confirming the assessment of benefits and damages together with a description of the property to be condemned and the map showing the location of the condemned property. The assessment of benefits and damages need not be filed with the register of deeds.

History: 1983 a 236

**32.58 Benefit assessment payments. (1) MAILING BILLS TO OWNERS.** After the common council confirms the final assessment of benefits and damages the city treasurer shall mail a bill for the full amount of the benefit assessment to the last-known mailing address of any owner of each parcel of property within the benefit district, as listed on the tax roll. The bill may be paid without interest if payment is remitted to the city treasurer within 45 days of the date of billing. Failure of this mailing to reach an owner does not affect the assessment or create any liability.

(2) LATE PAYMENTS. (a) 1. This paragraph does not apply if the city issues bonds under s. 32.67 or 32.69 (2).

2. If any property owner fails to pay the benefit assessment in full within 45 days of the date of billing, the city treasurer shall place the assessment plus any interest accruing on the tax roll, subject to the following conditions:

a. If the unpaid principal equals or exceeds \$125, the bill shall be spread equally over the first available tax roll and the next 5 tax rolls. The common council may direct that unpaid assessments to finance a municipal parking system under s. 66.079, plus interest accruing, be spread over the first available tax roll and up to the next 19 tax rolls.

b. If the unpaid principal is less than \$125, the bill shall be added to the first available tax roll.

c. The common council shall establish the interest rate on unpaid principal.

(b) 1. Any property owner may pay the outstanding principal and interest on a benefit assessment in full at any time. Unless the city issues or will issue bonds under s. 32.67 or 32.69 (2), interest on the benefit assessment is computed to the date of payment. If the city issues or will issue bonds, interest is computed to a date 6 months following the date of payment and interest on an instalment of the assessment that falls due within this 6-month period is computed to the date the instalment falls due.

2. After payment in full the city comptroller may purchase any bond issued against the assessment, without action of the common council, to prevent further payment of interest on the bond. The city may cancel the bond after purchase. The city comptroller shall report to the common council each July concerning all bonds purchased and canceled.

(3) FAILURE TO PAY. If any property owner is delinquent in paying a benefit assessment:

(a) The county treasurer, acting under s. 74.10 or 74.39, or the city, if authorized to act under s. 74.03 (10), may sell the owner's property to collect the delinquent assessment, unless a special improvement bond under s. 32.67 is issued against the property. If the city has issued a special improvement bond against the owner's property, it may foreclose the property to collect the delinquent assessment. Even if only part of the property is within the benefit district and assessed benefits, the entire property may be sold or foreclosed to collect the delinquent assessment.

(b) The city may attach a lien on the owner's property as of the date the assessment is placed on the tax roll under sub. (2) (a). The lien has the same priority as liens under s. 74.01.

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(4) **SEPARATE ACCOUNT.** The city treasurer shall keep a separate account for the collection of benefit assessments that finance special improvement bonds issued under s. 32.67. The amounts collected shall be used to pay the principal and interest on the bonds.

History: 1983 a 236.

**32.61 Appeal to circuit court. (1) LIMITATION ON REMEDIES.** An appeal to the circuit court is the only remedy for damages incurred under this subchapter and is the exclusive method of reviewing any assessment of benefits.

(2) **STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS; BOND.** Any person with any interest in property assessed benefits or damages may, within 20 days after the common council confirms the assessment, appeal to the circuit court of the county in which the assessment is made by filing with the clerk of the circuit court a notice of appeal. The notice shall state the person's residence and interest in the property, the interest of any other person in the property, any lien attached to the property and the grounds of the appeal, together with a \$100 bond to the city for the payment of court costs. At least 2 sureties shall sign the bond and state on the bond that each has a net worth in property within this state not exempt from execution at least equal to \$100. If the city attorney objects to the bond or sureties the judge shall determine the suitability of the bond or sureties. Any surety company authorized to do business in this state may sign the bond as surety. Within this 20-day period the appellant shall also deliver a copy of the notice of appeal and bond to the city attorney. The city clerk shall send to the clerk of the circuit court a certified copy of the assessment of benefits and damages. If more than one person appeals, the city clerk shall send only one certified copy of the assessment for all appeals. Any person may pay any benefits assessed against his or her property without prejudice to the right of appeal under this section.

(3) **PROCEDURE ON APPEAL; PARTIES; COSTS.** The appeal shall be conducted before a jury. The court may permit any person interested in the benefits or damages to the same piece of property to become a party to the appeal if the person submits a petition setting forth the nature and extent of the interest. If the judgment is less than the damages assessed by the city, the judgment less the taxable costs of the city is full compensation for the damages. If the judgment is greater than the damages assessed by the city, the judgment is full compensation for the damages, plus interest only on the amount by which the judgment increases the award. If the city pays the award of damages under s. 32.62 (2) (c), the city may withdraw the award prior to

the determination of an appeal only if it files a bond approved by the court to repay the amount withdrawn with costs and with interest from the date of the withdrawal. If the judgment decreases the benefits assessed by the city or increases the damages assessed, the appellant shall recover taxable costs on the appeal. Under any other judgment, the city recovers taxable costs. The city may pay any increased cost from its general fund by levying a tax or by issuing a general obligation bond under s. 67.04 (2) (zr). The appeal has preference over all other civil cases not on trial and may be brought on for trial by either party.

(4) **ASSESSMENT CHANGES ON APPEAL.** (a) The city shall correct its tax roll to reflect any changes in benefits assessed by the judgment under sub. (3).

(b) If the appellant pays any instalment or all of any benefits assessed prior to a judgment reducing the benefits assessed, the city shall refund the excess payment plus interest. If the city sells any property for any delinquent benefit assessment that is subsequently reduced by a judgment, the city shall refund the amount reduced plus interest upon presentation of a receipt showing the redemption of the property from the tax sale.

(c) If the appellant pays any instalment or all of any benefits assessed or if the city sells any property for any delinquent benefit assessment prior to a judgment increasing the benefits assessed, the city shall enter the increase in benefits, plus interest on the increase in benefits from the date of the judgment entered on appeal, on the tax roll against the property. The city shall enter the revised assessment on the tax roll in one sum if the original benefit assessment was payable or paid in one sum, or shall add equal portions of the revised assessment to any subsequent benefit assessment instalments assessed against the property and enter the additions on the following tax rolls.

(d) If the city issues particular special improvement bonds under s. 32.67 (2) prior to a judgment reducing the benefits assessed against the property, any foreclosure of the bonds shall be for the reduced amount only of the benefits assessed. The city shall reimburse the bondholder for the difference due on the bonds.

History: 1983 a 236.

**32.62 Transfer of title. (1) FEE SIMPLE TITLE TO CITY.** If the city acquires any property by gift, purchase or condemnation under this subchapter, the city holds fee simple title to the property except that the city may acquire only an easement for streets, alleys, bridges, viaducts or water or sewer mains or branches and may acquire temporary construction easements.

**(2) PROCEDURE** (a) The city acquires title to any property if any of the following occur:

1. The city pays the property owner the damages assessed under s. 32.57.

2. The city reserves sufficient funds to pay the property owner the damages assessed under s. 32.57 and the board provides the property owner with 10 days' notice of the availability of the funds prior to acquisition by publication in any newspaper of general circulation in the city.

3. The city deposits the damages assessed under s. 32.57 with the clerk of the circuit court for the county in which the property is located for payment by order of the court under par. (c).

(b) Any person entitled to payment for an assessment of damages exceeding \$200 shall furnish to the city an abstract of title extended down to date to prove ownership, before the city may pay the assessment of damages. If the assessment of damages does not exceed \$200, the claimant may furnish a certificate of title to prove ownership instead of an abstract of title.

(c) The city may deposit the assessed damages with the clerk of the circuit court for the county in which the property is located. Deposit with the circuit court clerk relieves the city of any responsibility for the payment of damages and vests title to the property with the city. The circuit court has jurisdiction over the application of any party interested in the assessed damages, after notifying all interested parties and receiving proof of the applicant's interest, to distribute the payment of damages.

(d) 1. The city may deposit the assessed damages with the clerk of the circuit court for the county in which the property is located if either of the following persons fails to accept a payment of damages:

a. A trustee vested with title to property condemned under this subchapter but who is not authorized to convey the property.

b. A guardian of a person with an interest in property condemned under this subchapter.

2. The city shall notify the trustee or guardian of the deposit under subd. 1. Deposit with the circuit court clerk relieves the city of any responsibility for the payment of damages and vests title to the property with the city. The circuit court has jurisdiction over the application of any trustee or guardian to determine the rights of the parties and distribute the payment of damages.

(e) Payment of damages assessed under s. 32.57 voids all encumbrances to title, including any contract, lease or covenant attached to the property. Payment of assessed damages satisfies the interests in the property of all parties to the encumbrances.

**(3) PAYMENT OF TAXES.** The city may collect any unpaid property taxes, including property

taxes assessed for the current year prior to transfer of title to the city, by reducing the assessed damages payable to the property owner proportionately. The court with jurisdiction under sub. (2) (c) or (d) may reduce the assessed damages proportionately prior to ordering the distribution of the assessed damages.

**(4) WRIT OF ASSISTANCE.** If the city is unable to obtain possession of the property under sub. (2), a circuit court may grant a writ of assistance with 24 hours' notice to assist the transfer of title. If the city receives a writ of assistance pending an appeal, the appellant may receive the money paid into court upon the order of the court without prejudice to the appeal.

History: 1983 a 236

### **32.63 Completing certain improvements. (1)**

**APPLICATION.** This section applies to any plan of improvement that includes the acquisition of property either for the purpose of laying out or improving an alley or street, as defined in s. 340.01 (2) and (64), or for the purpose of establishing any park or memorial ground and that includes any of the following improvements:

(a) Creating or improving gutters, curbs or sidewalks of the alley or street.

(b) Improving any park or memorial ground.

(c) Erecting any bridge or viaduct.

**(2) PERFORMANCE.** After approving the plan of improvement under s. 32.55, the city may complete the improvement without submitting further estimates of the cost of the improvement to the common council. The common council may not revise its assessment of benefits or damages for the improvement.

History: 1983 a 236

### **32.64 Appointing a guardian; service of notice.**

Any minor or incompetent as defined in s. 880.01 (4) with an interest in affected property, any interested person as defined in s. 880.01 (6) or the city attorney may petition the circuit court for the county in which the property is located under s. 880.07 for appointment of a guardian to act for the minor or incompetent under this subchapter. Any notice to the minor or incompetent required under this subchapter shall be served on the guardian.

History: 1983 a 236

**32.66 Bonding.** The common council may, by resolution, authorize the issuance of general special improvement bonds or particular special improvement bonds to finance an improvement. The common council may register the bonds as to principal under s. 67.09 and may call the bonds on terms it prescribes.

History: 1983 a 236

**32.67 Special improvement bonds. (1) GENERAL SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT BONDS.** General special improvement bonds are payable as to principal and interest on April 1, as provided in sub. (3) from the collection of assessments of benefits for any improvement. The city comptroller shall issue the bonds. The common council shall determine the amount and denominations in which the bonds are issued and set the interest rate. The common council may issue the bonds in series. The bonds shall have interest coupons attached, bear the seal of the city and be signed by the mayor; one member of the board of assessment and the city comptroller. The mayor's signature may be engraved.

**(2) PARTICULAR SPECIAL IMPROVEMENT BONDS.** (a) The common council may authorize the issuance of particular special improvement bonds directly against any affected property. The city shall set the interest rate for these bonds.

(b) The city comptroller shall issue the bonds for the amounts assessed against the property. The bonds shall be made payable as provided by the authorizing resolution of the common council in equal annual instalments plus interest on the unpaid part of the bond accruing to the date of payment on April 1, as provided in sub. (3). The bonds shall be designated "Particular Special Improvement Bonds" (naming the improvement), be made payable to bearer, state the amount of the assessment of benefits due and the amount of each instalment plus interest payable and the times of payment, describe the property upon which the bond is assessed, bear the seal of the city, be issued in the city's name and be signed by the mayor, one member of the board of assessment and the city comptroller. The signature of the mayor may be engraved. Coupons shall be attached to each bond in amounts equal to the instalment payments due plus interest remaining on unpaid portions of the bond.

(c) The lien of the bond attaches on the date the assessment is placed on the tax roll under par. (e).

(d) If the city fails to pay any instalment of the bond plus interest because the assessment against the property is delinquent, the bondholder may require the entire amount of the bond plus interest to be paid within 3 years after the default. The bondholder may foreclose against the property in the manner provided under s. 75.19. The bondholder may also recover reasonable attorney fees and costs. The time for redemption of the property may be shortened by order of the court. A copy of the bond foreclosed may be filed as a part of the judgment roll in the action in place of the original.

(e) If bonds are issued, the city comptroller shall place benefit assessments against property financing the bonds on the tax roll for the year of issuance or, if the city comptroller is unable to place the assessments on this tax roll, on the next year's tax roll. Placement of benefit assessments on the tax roll is only for the purpose of collection by the city treasurer at the same time as other taxes are collected. If the owner defaults on payment of the assessment the property may not be sold for taxes. The sole remedy for the enforcement of the payment of the bonds is the foreclosure action against the property under par. (d).

**(3) TIME OF BOND PAYMENTS.** Bonds or coupons are payable at the office of the city treasurer on April 1 following the expiration of the tax collection period of each year in which the assessments may be placed on the tax roll for collection, to the extent the assessments financing the bonds or coupons are received.

**(4) NOT A DEBT OF THE CITY.** (a) No bond issued under this section is a debt of the city, except to the extent the city treasurer collects assessments for payment of the bonds.

(b) The common council may guarantee to pay any deficiencies in the collection of any assessment in an amount up to the principal and interest of any bond or coupon. If the city pays a deficiency it may become the owner of the bond or coupon, subrogated to the rights of the bondholder. The city may apply any redemption payments on delinquent assessments to the payment of any coupons or bonds it holds.

History: 1983 a 236

**32.68 Tax delinquent fund.** The city may create a tax delinquent fund to cover delinquent payment of assessments. The common council may authorize payment of deficiencies in the collection of assessments to pay the amount due on bonds issued under s. 32.67.

History: 1983 a 236

**32.69 Alternative financing by general obligation bonds, taxation or anticipation notes.**

**(1) FUNDING.** The city may finance any improvement under this subchapter by issuing general obligation bonds, levying a tax or by borrowing on anticipation notes. The city may collect assessments on property that finances bonds under s. 32.67 and apply the assessments to pay the principal and interest of general obligation bonds, or to reduce general taxes if the city levies a tax to finance an improvement. If the city issues no bonds under s. 32.67, the city shall apply all assessments collected to pay the principal and interest of general obligation bonds or to reduce taxes if the city levies a tax to finance an improvement.

(2) **GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDING.** The common council may adopt an initial resolution to issue general obligation bonds to pay the cost of laying out or improving any alley or street, as defined in s. 340.01 (2) and (64), without submitting the initial resolution to the electors of the city unless a number of electors equal to or greater than 10% of the votes cast for governor in the city at the last general election file a petition with the city clerk requesting submission. The city shall conduct any referendum for approval of the initial resolution as provided in s. 67.05 (5).

(3) **ANTICIPATION NOTES.** The common council may authorize borrowing on notes signed by the mayor and city comptroller in anticipation of the incoming assessments to pay the cost of any improvement authorized under this subchapter. The city shall pay the notes out of the assessments received in the year of issuance. The city shall pay the notes not later than April 1 following the date of issuance. The city may pay any deficit due to delinquencies in the collection of assessments out of the tax delinquent fund under s. 32.68.

**History:** 1983 a. 236.

**32.70 Statute of limitations.** Unless the action commences within one year after January 1 following the date the assessment of benefits is placed on the tax roll under s. 32.58 (2), no

person may contest the sale of property or issuance of any tax sale certificate for nonpayment of an assessment. Commencing an action is subject to s. 32.61 and does not prevent the issuance or payment of any bonds issued under s. 32.67 or 32.69.

**History:** 1983 a. 236.

**32.71 Liberal construction.** This subchapter shall be liberally construed to provide the city with the largest possible power and leeway of action.

**History:** 1983 a. 236.

**32.72 Approval by the electorate.** (1) Sections 32.50 to 32.71 do not take effect in any city until the following question is submitted to the electors of the city at a special election and adopted by a majority vote of the electors voting: "Shall subchapter II of chapter 32, Wisconsin Statutes, be effective in the city of \_\_\_\_\_, thus allowing the city to acquire and condemn property for street widening and similar purposes, financed through assessments of benefits and damages?"

(2) Notwithstanding sub. (1), this subchapter is effective in any city that has used chapter 275, laws of 1931, to acquire and condemn property before April 27, 1984.

**History:** 1983 a. 236; 1983 a. 538 ss. 39, 264.