

DICKENSON COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS PUBLIC COMMENT AND PARTICIPATION POLICY

A period of time for "Public Comment" will be designated on the meeting agenda during which the public may comment on issues related to County business. The Dickenson County Board of Supervisors believes that the citizens of the County should be heard and that this is an acceptable format for receiving public comment.

The chairman and parliamentarian are jointly responsible for the orderly conduct of the meeting and shall rule on such matters as the appropriateness of the subject being presented and length of time for such presentation. Upon recognition by the chairman, the speaker shall address himself to the chairman and if, at the conclusion of his remarks, any member of the Board of Supervisors desires further information, the member will address the speaker only with the permission of the chairman. No one will be allowed to make additional presentations until everyone who wishes to speak has an opportunity to make an initial presentation.

After the Public Comment section of the meeting is closed, the public shall not be allowed to participate in general board member discussions regarding agenda items unless requested to do so by the Board. Public participation with the board members regarding agenda items can be disruptive and the practice is prohibited by Roberts Rules of Order. It is the desire of the Board of Supervisors to treat each member of the public fairly and equally. Allowing one individual to participate while excluding others is unfair. The Board may hold such public hearings as may be necessary to allow the public to more fully express their concerns.

While we do not wish to restrict the free expression of opinion, we feel that certain restrictions may be necessary so that order and reasonable standards of decorum may be maintained.

RECOGNITION BY THE CHAIRMAN

- Upon recognition by the chairman, the speaker shall address himself to the chairman and if, at the conclusion of his remarks, any member of the Board of Supervisors desires further information, the member will address the speaker only with the permission of the chairman.

TIME LIMITS

- There shall be a time limit for each individual speaker of 3 minutes.
- A representative of a group may have up to five (5) minutes to make a presentation. The representative shall identify the group at the beginning of his or her presentation. A group may have no more than one spokesperson.
- Speakers are not permitted to donate time to other speakers.
- No speaker's time shall be extended except by unanimous consent or a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) vote of the Board member present.

PROHIBITED CONDUCT

Persons appearing before the Board will not be allowed to:

- Campaign for public office;
- Promote private business ventures;
- Use profanity or vulgar language or gestures;
- Use language which insults or demeans any person and/or, when directed at a public official or employee when not related to his or her official duties; however, citizens have the right to comment on the performance, conduct, and qualification of public figures;
- Make non-germane or frivolous statements;
- Interrupt other speakers or engage in behavior that disrupts the meeting including but not limited to applause, cheers, jeers, etc., or engages in any non-permitted conduct, behavior or speech which interferes with, delays, interrupts or disrupts the orderly conduct of Board meetings, agendas or business;
- Engage in behavior that intimidates others;
- Address the Board on issues that do not concern the services, policies or affairs of the County.

ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- Robert's Rules of Order and this Public Comment and Participation Policy shall govern the public's participation at Board meetings;

BOARD COMMENTS

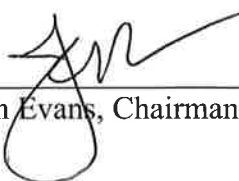
- Board members should not respond to issues presented unless clarification is required.

PLACEMENT ON AGENDA

- Individuals or groups wishing to speak at a regular Board meeting at a time other than during a public hearing shall submit a written or verbal request to the Clerk of the Board by noon on the Wednesday prior to the regular meeting date.

This Public Comment and Participation Policy may be read prior to each public comment or posted on the County's website or posted at a conspicuous location at the meeting or provided to the participants prior to the public comment period.

Adopted this 27TH day of OCTOBER, 2020.



Josh Evans, Chairman

Attest: 
Clerk