

Addressing the Board of County Commissioners, Public Building Authority or any committee thereof.

Public Participation on Specific Agenda Items:

Members of the public may address the Board of County Commissioners, Public Building Authority, or any committee thereof on any agenda item. In order to address a specific agenda item, citizens must sign up to speak at least 5 minutes prior to the meeting's posted start time utilizing the designated form provided by the County Clerk's office. Individuals addressing the Board must provide their name, address, city, and indicate the item number on which they wish to address the board for the record. Citizens wishing to address multiple agenda items must fill out separate forms for each item.

If less than ten people sign up to speak on an agenda item, each person will be given three minutes to speak. If more than ten people sign up to speak on an agenda item, 30 minutes will be divided evenly by the number of people signed up to speak.

Members of the public may also address on individual concerns (items not on the agenda) at the end of the agenda under "Public Comment." Public Comment is for information purposes only. No discussion, action, or decisions on matters presented under "Public Comment" will be taken. In order to speak during Public Comments, citizens must sign up at least 5 minutes prior to the meeting's posted start time utilizing the designated form provided by the County Clerk's office. Individuals speaking under "Public comment" must provide their name, address, city for the record.

If less than 20 people sign up to speak during "Public Comment," each person will be given three minutes to address the Board. If more than 20 people sign up to speak during "Public Comment," 60 minutes will be divided evenly by the number of people who have signed up to speak.

Meeting Rules and Decorum

21 O.S. §280 (A) provides that it is "unlawful for any person, alone or in concert with others and without authorization, to willfully disturb, interfere or disrupt state business or the business of any political subdivision, which includes publicly posted meetings, or any agency operations, agent, official, or representative of the state or political subdivision.

In addition to the language found 21 O.S. §280 (A), Paragraph B of 21 O.S. §280 provides that "It is unlawful for any person who is without authority or who is causing any disturbance, interference or disruption to willfully refuse to disperse or leave any property, building or structure owned, leased or occupied by state officials or any political subdivision or its employees, agents or representatives or used in any manner to conduct state business or any political subdivision's business or operations after proper notice by a peace officer, sergeant-at-arms, or other security personnel."

The Board of County Commissioners, the Public Buildings Authority, and the committees thereof recognize that civil, respectful and courteous discourse are hallmarks of the democratic

process. To that end, uncivil discourse and/or discourteous and inappropriate behavior having negative impact that disturbs, interferes or disrupts public meetings will not be tolerated.

In an effort to preserve the intent of open government and maintain a positive environment for citizen input and the decision-making, the following Meeting Protocols and Rules of Decorum have been adopted.

- 1) An individual may speak on only after being recognized by the Chair. Upon recognition from the Chair, the speaker shall state their name, address, and city for the record. Failure to do so may result in loss of speaking privileges and/or removal from meeting room
- 2) Comments shall be made from the podium at the front of the meeting room or such other area designated by the Chair. Failure to do so may result in loss of speaking privileges and/or removal from meeting room
- 3) When addressing a specific item on the agenda, speakers shall confine their remarks to the identified subject or business at hand. Failure to do so may result in loss of speaking privileges or removal from the meeting room.
- 4) Outbursts (including the use of sound amplification devices), anger, rudeness, ridicule, obscene or profane language, and lack of respect for others and personal attacks directed toward a member of the board or other individual(s) are not acceptable behavior. Demonstrations in support or opposition to a speaker or idea are not permitted. Continuation of the above conduct may result in loss of speaking privileges and/or removal from the meeting room.
- 5) "Public Participation" or "Public Comment" will not be used to air personal grievances, make political endorsements for or against any candidate for elected office. Nor may any speaker campaign in favor of or against any ballot propositions that have been placed before the electorate for consideration. Additionally, no declared candidate, for any elected office, may speak during "Public Participation" or "Public Comment".
- 6) The Presiding Officer may have any person removed from the meeting who fails to comply with the provisions of this policy, or otherwise delays, disrupts, or interferes with the meeting's effective or timely conduct.

This policy shall be posted on every Board of County Commissioners, Public Buildings Authority or any committee meeting thereof.

Approved this _____ day of _____ 2025

Public Building Authority

Chairman

Vice-Chairman

Member

Attest: Maressa Treat, County Clerk