



Bartholomew County Public Library

Library Board of Trustees Public Comment Policy

The Library Board of Trustees shall have a time providing for public comment during all public meetings. Comments should be relevant to Library matters, excluding personnel issues. Participants must be recognized by the presiding officer and will be requested to preface their comments by an announcement of their name, address and/or group affiliation, if and when appropriate. Individual speakers are asked to limit their remarks to three minutes.

The presiding officer may:

- prohibit public comments which are frivolous, repetitive, or harassing;
- interrupt, warn, or terminate a person's statement when the statement is too lengthy, personally directed, abusive, obscene, or irrelevant;
- request any individual to leave the meeting when that person behaves in a manner that is disruptive of the orderly conduct of the meeting;
- request the assistance of law enforcement officers in the removal of a disorderly person when that person's conduct interferes with the orderly progress of the meeting;
- call for a recess or an adjournment to another time when the lack of public decorum so interferes with the orderly conduct of the meeting as to warrant such action;
- waive these rules with the approval of the Board when necessary for the protection of privacy or the administration of the Board's business.

Public comment time is provided for the public to express their opinions or concerns about matters over which the Board of Trustees has authority or responsibility. Comments are intended to be statements from speakers; speakers may not engage the Board in a question & answer exchange during public comments. Questions relating to Library or administrative procedures which could be addressed outside of a Library board meeting should be referred to the appropriate Library staff at other times. Expressions of opinion about these matters are appropriate for the public comment time on the agenda.

Approved by the Library Board of Trustees 1/17/2022