



Rockwell Falls Public Library – Open Meeting Policy

WHEREAS the board of the Rockwell Falls Public Library Rockwell Falls Public Library recognizes the requirement of the NY State Open Meetings Law to allow the public to photograph, broadcast, and webcast its open public meetings; and

WHEREAS, Section 103(2) of the Open Meetings Law allows public bodies to adopt rules about the location of equipment and personnel used to photograph broadcast webcast or otherwise record a public meeting;

BE IT RESOLVED that the board of trustees of the Rockwell Falls Public Library adopts the attached rules per Section 103(2) of the Open Meetings Law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that as required by law, such rules shall be posted at the location of each meeting and included in the agenda posted at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting so the public attending can have notice of and abide by such rules.

Consistent with the requirements of the Open Meetings Law, attendees at open public meetings of the board of trustees are allowed to photograph, broadcast, webcast and otherwise record those portions of the meeting not in executive session. To ensure such authorized activity does not disrupt the smooth and safe operation of a trustee meeting, and consistent with Section 103-a of the Open Meetings Law, the following "Rules" shall be posted at the location of each meeting and included on the posted agenda:

- No extension cords or other potential tripping hazards may be set up;
- No flash photography or additional lighting may be used;
- No recording instrument shall be closer than 3 feet of a meeting participant, without that person's express consent;
- All equipment should be silent enough to not cause a disruption;
- Equipment must not block aisles or exit and may not impede the view of other attendees;
- Minutes to meetings will be posted on website

The privilege to record in this manner at the library is limited to open meetings of the board.

When enforcing this rule with regards to the manner of recording, the Rockwell Falls Public Library board of trustees shall ensure that the First Amendment of the United States Constitution, and Article I, Section 8 of the New York constitution are honored.

Rockwell Falls Public Library resolution to authorize videoconferencing and adopt policies

WHEREAS on April 9th, 2022, the governor of the state of New York signed into effect chapter 59 of the laws of 2022, in part amending the Open Meetings Law to enable public bodies to meet, under certain circumstances, via videoconference; and

WHEREAS, the board of the Rockwell Falls Public Library has duly considered the benefit of this law to its routine operations, and determined that meeting via videoconferencing per the Open Meetings Law with further the operations and mission of Rockwell Falls Public Library;

BE IT RESOLVED that consistent with its bylaws and Charter, the board of trustees hereby authorizes the use of videoconferencing for its meetings; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board of trustees hereby adopts the attached written procedure governing member and public attendance at trustee meetings, and confirms each element of that written procedure in this resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members of the board of trustees are required to be physically present at any duly noticed meeting unless such member is unable to be physically present due to extraordinary circumstances (including disability, illness, caregiving responsibilities, or any other significant or unexpected factor or event which precludes the member's physical attendance at such meeting); and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that except in the case of executive sessions conducted pursuant to section one hundred five of the Open Meetings Law, and consistent with the requirements of the Not-for-Profit Corporation law, the trustees shall ensure that members of the public body can be heard, seen and identified, while the meeting is being conducted, including but not limited to any motions, proposed by the Rockwell Falls Public Library, resolutions, and any other matter formally discussed or voted upon; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the minutes of the meetings involving videoconferencing shall include which, if any, members participated remotely and shall be available to the public pursuant to section one hundred six of the Open Meetings Law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that if videoconferencing is used to conduct a meeting, the public notice for the meeting shall inform the public that videoconferencing will be used, where the public can view and/or participate in such meeting, where required documents and records will be posted or available, and identify the physical location for the meeting where the public can attend; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board of trustees shall provide that each meeting conducted using videoconferencing shall be recorded and such recordings posted or linked on the library's website within five business days following the meeting, and shall remain so available for a minimum of five years thereafter, and such recordings shall be transcribed upon request; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED if videoconferencing is used to conduct a meeting, the library shall provide the opportunity for members of the public to view such meeting via video, and to participate in proceedings via videoconference in real time where public comment or participation is authorized and shall ensure that videoconferencing authorizes the same public participation or testimony as in person participation or testimony; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that for so long as the board of trustees elects to utilize videoconferencing to conduct its meetings, the library will maintain an official website; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, consistent with the library's mission to serve its community, the trustees' use of videoconferencing shall utilize technology to permit access by members of the public with disabilities consistent with the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Policy Adopted: January 18, 2022

Policy Amended: October 18, 2022