

ROCK COUNTY, WISCONSIN



**COUNTY BOARD STAFF COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 2021 – 5:00 P.M.
JURY DELIBERATION ROOM - FOURTH FLOOR
ROCK COUNTY COURTHOUSE-EAST
51 S MAIN ST, JANESVILLE, WI**

Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Approve Agenda
3. Public Comment
4. Resolutions and Committee Action
 - a. Amending Rules I & IV of the Rock County Board of Supervisors Rules of Procedure
5. Review, Discussion and Possible Action
6. Adjournment

The County of Rock will provide reasonable accommodations to people with disabilities. Please contact us at 608-757-5510 or e-mail countyadmin@co.rock.wi.us at least 48 hours prior to a public meeting to discuss any accommodations that may be necessary.

Please contact Haley at (608)757-5510 if you are going to be late or if you will not be able to attend the meeting.

RESOLUTION NO. _____

AGENDA NO. _____

**RESOLUTION
ROCK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Supervisor Shirley Williams
INITIATED BY



Supervisor Shirley Williams
DRAFTED BY

County Board Staff Committee
SUBMITTED BY

October 20, 2021
DATE DRAFTED

**AMENDING RULES I & IV OF
THE ROCK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
RULES OF PROCEDURE**

1 **WHEREAS**, in a representative democracy an informed electorate is essential for the workings of good
2 government; and,

3
4 **WHEREAS**, providing for broad public access to channels of communication which allow the free flow
5 of information from members of the public to elected officials and government administrators creates and
6 more responsive and well informed government body; and,

7
8 **WHEREAS**, modern technology provides many different avenues of modes of communication, allowing
9 for many different communities to find access to information and ability to communicate in ways that have
10 been previously difficult or impossible; and,

11
12 **WHEREAS**, for public agencies across the country, the public health pandemic resulting from COVID-
13 19 required quick adaptation to a new way of interacting with community members. Organizations moved
14 processes from in-person to digital formats and public meetings also had to make the leap, with many
15 teams turning to conferencing tools, like Microsoft Teams, Webex, and Zoom, to support the change; and

16
17 **WHEREAS**, providing for remote access to meetings creates more flexibility for both Supervisors and the
18 public to attend meetings and can increase participation in public meetings, thereby vindicating the goal of
19 increased access and better flow of information for a more diverse set of communities; and

20
21 **WHEREAS**, it should be the policy of Rock County to continue to provide electronic access to meetings
22 even after the COVID-19 pandemic subsides and it is safe to meet in person again.

23
24 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Rock County Board of Supervisors duly assembled
25 this _____ day of _____, 20__ amends the Rock County Board Rules of Procedure as
26 follows (added text appears as underlined; deleted text appears as ~~struck through~~):

27
28 Rule I shall be amended as follows:

29
30 J. At all meetings of the Rock County Board of Supervisors, members shall have the ability
31 to attend, participate, and exercise all the responsibilities and privileges of their position by audio-
32 visual electronic means.

33
34 K. During any period of public comment, or public hearing during a meeting of the Rock
35 County Board of Supervisors, the public shall be provided the opportunity to submit their
36 comments to the Board by electronic means which may include, but shall not be limited to,
37 comments submitted by email, web form, or real-time remote testimony or comment.

38
39 Rule IV-Q. shall be created as follows:

40
41 Q. At all meetings of the committees listed in Rule V. of these Rules, members of such
42 committees shall have the ability to attend, participate and exercise all the responsibilities and
43 privileges of their position by audio-visual electronic means. All other committees, advisory
44 groups, or other governmental bodies created by order, rule, statute or ordinance of the Rock
45 County Board of Supervisors, or any other government authority, but not listed under Rule V
46 herein, may provide access to meetings consistent with this paragraph

47

Respectfully submitted,

COUNTY BOARD STAFF COMMITTEE

Rich Bostwick, Chair

Wes Davis, Vice Chair

Tom Brien

Kevin Leavy

Lou Peer

J. Russell Podzilni

Alan Sweeney

Bob Yeomans

Mary Beaver

LEGAL NOTE:

Pursuant to Rule X-C. of the Rock County Board of Supervisors Rules of Procedure, the rules of procedure may be amended upon 2/3 vote of all members present.

s/Richard Greenlee

Richard Greenlee
Corporation Counsel

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE:

Matter of policy.

/s/Josh Smith

Josh Smith
County Administrator

FISCAL NOTE:

Minimal fiscal impact.

/s/Sherry Oja

Sherry Oja
Finance Director