BLAIR COUNTY PUBLIC COMMENT POLICY	Policy Approved By:		
	Commissioners	**Initial**	**Date**
	David Kessling		8/8/2024
	Amy E. Webster		8/8/2024
	Laura O. Burke		8/8/2024
	Chief Clerk	**Initial**	**Date**
	Lindsay Dempsie		8/8/24

BLAIR COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
PUBLIC COMMENT POLICY

Public comment and participation in decisions made by governing bodies is an essential component in our form of government. Blair County Board of Commissioners encourages public participation in the various matters that it addresses.

In order to provide adequate opportunities for public comment and participation in a manner that will contribute to the overall effectiveness of the decisions made by the Blair County Board of Commissioners, the Board has established certain procedures to follow.

Procedures are designed to provide the maximum opportunity to all members of the public to present their views and opinions on various matters of importance that confront the Board. The following procedures will be followed at all Blair County Board of Commissioners meetings to allow for public participation:

1) Public comment will occur at the properly designated place on the regular Board Agenda. On most Agendas, public discussion will occur at the item labeled "Public Comments & Petitions".

2) Any individual who wishes to address the Board must be a resident of Blair County, own property in Blair County, or represent a business or organization located in Blair County.

3) Any individual who wishes to address the Board must state their full name, street address of their residence, and municipality so that it may be recorded in the Minutes. If the individual is a non-resident they must state the address of the property they own or identify the business they represent so that it may be recorded in the Minutes.

4) Any individual who wishes to address the Board will be allowed up to three (3) minutes to present their statements.

5) During public comment, the Board will not take any formal action or vote. If the comment pertains to an item on the agenda, the action will be taken at the appropriate time during the meeting. Action cannot be taken on issues that do not appear on the agenda.

6) Any individual is free, at any time, to submit written comments and testimony to the Commissioners by mail, fax, or e-mail.

In general, the purpose of public discussion is for the public to make comments on any item considered by the Board as part of the Agenda or on any other item of community interest. Individuals addressing the Commissioners should confine their remarks to statements of opinion, information, or fact. The Public Comment section of the Agenda is not intended to be a debate. Rather, it is intended to be an orderly presentation of opinion, information, and fact to help the Board in making its decisions on various issues confronting the County. The Chair may rule, out of order, any comment that is not appropriate to the intent of this policy.