USE OF PHOTOGRAPHIC AND RECORDING DEVICES AT COUNTY MEETINGS

Public Officers Law section 103 (d) states as follows:

“1. Any meeting of a public body that is open to the public shall be open to being photographed, broadcast, webcast, or otherwise recorded and/or transmitted by audio or video means. As used herein the term “broadcast” shall also include the transmission of signals by cable.  
2. A public body may adopt rules, consistent with recommendations from the committee on open government, reasonably governing the location of equipment and personnel used to photograph, broadcast, webcast, or otherwise record a meeting so as to conduct its proceedings in an orderly manner. Such rules shall be conspicuously posted during meetings and written copies shall be provided upon request to those in attendance.”

The Committee on Open Government has recommended as follows:

“Operation of equipment to photograph, record or broadcast a meeting is permitted unless it is obtrusive, disruptive, or interferes with the deliberative process or the right of persons in attendance to observe or listen to the proceedings.”

In compliance with the Open Meetings Law, Otsego County allows photographing, recording and transmission of County meetings subject to the Open Meetings Law by persons using video, audio, still photography or other similar equipment or devices so long as the equipment or device and the personnel used to operate same are not disruptive or obtrusive.

In order to allow the meetings to be conducted in an orderly manner, anyone wishing to use equipment such as television cameras, tripods or any other similar equipment that might obstruct the view of the public shall request from the Clerk of the Board of Representatives assignment to a specified location. Locations shall be assigned for each meeting in the order received. Any person or organization may call the Clerk of the Board in advance of the meeting to request a location assignment.

Walking about the meeting room or moving to a different location is not permitted without the consent of the Chair of the Board of Representatives or the respective committee as applicable. Violations of these guidelines may result in exclusion from the meeting at the discretion of the Chair of the Board or Committee as the case may be.

Administration Committee 2/22/2019