



Procedural Bulletin -- Public Forum Effective Date: February 18, 2000

It is the intent of the Scotland County Board of Commissioners to allow a Public Forum at each of its regular meetings for citizens to address the Board regarding issues or questions of benefit and/or interest to the general public in a positive fashion. It is the Board's further intent that matters shared during this forum not be harmful, discriminatory, or embarrassing to any citizen or employee of Scotland County, but that any concerns brought forward be expressed in general terms that provide the Board appropriate data to research the issue and respond to the speaker at a later time.

It is strongly suggested that personnel concerns go first through the Office of the County Manager (507 West Covington Street, Laurinburg NC 28352) or directly to County Commissioners, preferably in writing, in order for staff and/or Commissioners to attempt to address those concerns privately and with the necessary available resources.

To assure the Board of Commissioners' positive intent for the Public Forum is upheld, the following "ground rules" have been set by the Board of Commissioners:

- 1) Each speaker shall register his/her name and mailing address in order to assure accurate minutes and/or ability to respond.
- 2) There will be a time limit of no more than *three* minutes per speaker.
- 3) Only one speaker will be recognized at any given time. Others must wait their turn.
- 4) Any applause shall be held until the end of the Public Forum.
- 5) Discussion of County personnel issues is limited to only those issues where satisfactory resolution has been pursued, but not achieved, through the chain of command ending with the County Manager.
- 6) Derogatory references to specific County staff, by name, are prohibited.

It should be understood that the Board allows the Public Forum in the interest of sharing information, which serves the common good.

Scotland County Board of Commissioners