

RESOLUTION NO. 2021-R16

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING REMOTE TOWNSHIP BOARD MEETING ATTENDANCE
PURSUANT TO THE ILLINOIS OPEN MEETINGS ACT**

WHEREAS, pursuant to the Illinois Open Meetings Act (OMA), 5 ILCS 120/1 et seq., it is the public policy of this State that public bodies exist to aid in the conduct of the people's business and that the people have a right to be informed as to the conduct of their business. In order that the people be informed, the General Assembly finds and declares that it is the intent of this Act to ensure the actions of public bodies be taken openly and that their deliberations be conducted openly, except for certain circumstances that permit closed meetings; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the OMA, 5 ILCS 120/7, Edwardsville Township desires to adopt a policy that conforms to the requirements of the Open Meetings Act permitting attendance by a means other than physical presence; and

WHEREAS, the Edwardsville Township Board finds it necessary that any existing ordinances, resolutions, or policies be amended to redefine the term "meeting" to include electronic gatherings as defined in 5 ILCS 120/1.02 of the Open Meetings Act.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Board of Edwardsville, Madison County, Illinois as follows:

SECTION I: Recitals. The recitals stated above are incorporated herein by reference.

SECTION II: Remote Participation Policy. Edwardsville Township hereby adopts the Remote Participation Policy.

SECTION III: Effective Date. This resolution shall be in full force and effect from after its passage, approval, and publication.

SECTION IV: Severability. In the event that any section, clause, and provision, or part of this resolution shall be found and determined to be invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, all valid parts that are severable from the invalid parts shall remain in full force and effect.

Motion was made by Haroian, seconded by Schmidt
that the Resolution be adopted and approved by 5 Ayes and 0 Nays.

**PASSED BY THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF EDWARDSVILLE TOWNSHIP, MADISON
COUNTY, ILLINOIS, IN REGULAR AND PUBLIC SESSION THIS 23rd OF JUNE, 2021.**

ATTEST:

APPROVED:



Township Clerk



Township Supervisor

EDWARDSVILLE TOWNSHIP
REMOTE MEETING ATTENDANCE POLICY

- Section 1. Policy Statement. It is the policy of Edwardsville Township that any member of the Board may attend and participate in any open meeting of the Board via electronic means (such as by telephone, video or internet connection) provided that such attendance and participation is in compliance with this policy and any other applicable laws.
- Section 2. Prerequisites. A member of the Board may attend a meeting electronically if the member meets the following conditions: A quorum is physically present throughout the meeting; and, a majority of those physically present votes to approve the electronic attendance of the meeting.
- (a) The member should notify the Clerk/Deputy Clerk at least 24 hours before the meeting so that necessary communications equipment can be arranged. Inability to make the necessary technical arrangements will result in denial of a request for remote attendance.
 - (b) The member must assert one of the following three reasons why he or she is unable to physically attend the meeting,
 - (1) The member cannot attend because of personal illness or disability; or
 - (2) The member cannot attend because of employment purposes or the business of the Board; or
 - (3) The member cannot attend because of a family or other emergency.
 - (c) At the meeting the Clerk/Deputy Clerk shall inform the Board Members of the request for electronic attendance.
- Section 3. Voting Procedures. After a roll call establishing that a quorum is physically present, the Supervisor shall call for a motion that a member may be permitted to participate electronically after specifying the reason entitling the absent member to participate electronically. All of the Board members physically present are permitted to vote on whether electronic attendance will be allowed. The motion must be approved by a vote of a majority of those physically present.
- Section 4. Adequate Equipment Required. The Board member participating electronically and other members of the Board must be able to communicate effectively, and members of the audience must be able to hear all communications. Before approving electronic attendance at any meeting, the Board shall provide equipment adequate to accomplish this objective. It is a requirement that remotely participating members of the Board must activate video capabilities.

Section 5. Minutes. A member participating electronically shall be considered an off-site participant and counted as present electronically for that meeting if the member is allowed to participate. The meeting minutes shall also reflect and state specifically whether each member is physically present or by electronic means.

Section 6. Rights of Remote Member. A member permitted to participate electronically will be able to express his or her comments during the meeting and participate in the same capacity as those members physically present, subject to all general meeting guidelines and procedures previously adopted and adhered to. The member attending electronically shall be heard, considered, and counted as to any vote taken. Accordingly, the name of any member attending electronically shall be called during any vote taken, and his or her vote counted and recorded by the Recording Secretary and placed in the minutes for the corresponding meeting. A member participating electronically may leave a meeting and return as in the case of any member, provided the member attending electronically shall announce his or her leaving and returning.

Section 7. Maximum Number of Remote Meetings to Receive Pay. A member may attend no more than two (2) Board meetings remotely during a fiscal year – April 1-March 31 – with recognition as attending those meetings and the ability to participate, and will receive pay. A member may remotely attend meetings beyond the two (2) referenced, with recognition as attending those meetings and the ability to participate, but will not receive pay.

Adopted June 23, 2021 by Resolution No. 2021-R16