



TAUD COVID-19 UPDATE: Electronic Participation in Utility Board Meetings Extended through April 28, 2021

March 2, 2021

By Executive Order No. 78, Governor Lee extended the authorization for the members of governing bodies of local governments to participate in board meetings electronically through April 28, 2021. The guidelines for having an electronic meeting remain the same as those outlined in TAUD COVID-19 Update – September 30, 2020. You can read these guidelines at: <https://comptroller.tn.gov/content/dam/cot/administration/documents/covid-page/GuidanceExecOrder60090120.pdf>

These guidelines include, but are not limited to, the following:

- (1) All meetings of a governing body conducted by electronic means under this Order when a quorum of the governing board is not present at the meeting site must remain open and accessible to the public by providing real-time, live audio or video access to the public using Zoom, Web-Ex or other similar software programs. Providing a clear audio or video recording within two days of a public meeting in lieu of providing real-time, live audio or video access to the meeting *is no longer acceptable*.
- (2) A clear audio or video recording of the meeting shall be made available to the public as soon as practicable following the meeting, and in no event more than 2 business days after the meeting. Providing a clear audio or video recording within 2 days of a public meeting is now *mandatory* when an electronic board meeting is held – even when the public has been given real-time, audio or video access to the board meeting.
- (3) In the public notice of a board meeting required by Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 8-44-103, governing bodies shall provide information regarding how the public can obtain real-time, live access to or broadcast of the meeting, and governing bodies are strongly urged to provide an agenda for the meeting in such notice.

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