

Public Participation in a Twp Board Meeting

Persons wishing to address the Board at the appropriate place in the meeting agenda shall be subject to the following:

1. Each person wishing to address the Board shall identify themselves by name and address. Persons representing an organization or group shall identify that group and indicate whether their comments represent the official view of the organization or group.
2. The Board shall be provided with copies of all documents submitted by the speaker(s).
3. During a Public Input period, a person shall be allowed to speak for up to 3 minutes during each of the comment section.
4. An extension of the 3 minute limit may be granted by the supervisor/moderator (*) if it will not interfere with conduct of board business or with other persons who also wish to address the board. Up to three other persons may "will" their 3 minutes to a spokesperson, for that single spokesperson to speak a total of 12 minutes.
5. Conversely, the supervisor/moderator (*) may shorten the 3 minute if there is an especially large delegation addressing the same issue.
6. A member of the public *may* be called on by the supervisor/moderator, with consensus from the board, to speak on a specific agenda item when the issue is taken up by the Board, but is not a guaranteed option.
7. Each person wishing to address the Board shall identify themselves by name and address. Persons representing an organization or group shall identify that group and indicate whether their comments represent the official view of the organization or group.
8. The Board shall be provided with copies of all documents submitted by the speaker(s) during Public Input periods.
9. Persons addressing the Board shall observe rules of common courtesy:
 - Vocabulary, voice and actions shall always be appropriate to public discourse.
 - No personal insults shall be tolerated against a Board, staff or volunteer.
 - Complaints shall first be considered through proper channels before being considered by the Board.
 - Professional criticism related to anyone working for the township, in the performance of his/her duties, shall be voiced politely and without malice.
 - Board members or employees may request a closed session to hear complaints related to the performance of their official duties.

Board members may question or respond to speakers, but are not obligated to answer questions or make statements or commitments in response to issues raised by the public. Silence or non-response from the board should not be interpreted as disinterest or disagreement by the board. The speaker(s) may be in need of a more lengthy understanding of the situation, issue or topic, and therefore the board meeting does not afford the time for a complicated response. As a result, the speaker(s) may be referred to a committee or individual appropriate to address the concerns. However, should a board member individually or collectively wish to address the comments of the speaker(s), short responses may be forthcoming. In any case, concerns may be referred for investigation, study, and recommended as a future agenda item.