

GRANT TOWNSHIP POLICY ON PROCEDURES FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

A. The Chair.

The Township Supervisor shall chair the meetings of the Township Board. It shall be the duty of the Chair to preside at all meetings of the Township Board, to preserve order and to decide all questions of order, according to the agenda.

B. Public Comment.

The following shall apply to public comment at any Township Board meetings:

- 1. Members of the public may comment only during the public comment portions of the meeting.**
- 2. Specific answers to citizen questions need not be given by the Chair or other Township officials, but may, at the Chair's or Township Board's discretion be answered during the meeting or at a later time.**
- 3. At each Township Board Meeting open to the public, there shall be a general public comment period. No Citizen shall speak more than 3 minutes, unless the presiding Chair or Township Board permits the citizen to speak for a longer period of time. The Public Comment Period shall not be used to debate other members of the public on any subject matter.**
- 4. The Chair or Township Board may permit limited public comment for particular agenda items.**
- 5. All public comments shall be directed to the Township Board. No member of the public shall directly address any other member of the public or attempt to create any interactive debate with the public. This rule (#5) may be waived by the Chair with Township Board approval prior to elections.**
- 6. All public comments shall be related to Township matters. Public comments must be relevant and germane to the business and functions of the Township.**
- 7. No citizen can "transfer", reserve or delegate any public comment time to any other person.**
- 8. Any citizen desiring to make a public comment shall be requested to first state their name for the record.**
- 9. If a member of the public undertakes a personal attack on a Township official or employee regarding non-Township matters or on a private matter not related to Township business or activities, the Chair has the discretion to terminate the public comment time for any such person.**
- 10. No person shall be allowed to speak more than twice on the same matter at the same meeting. Persons purporting to speak to the same general subject matter in his and her personal and representative capability shall be recognized only twice. This rule (#10) may be waived by the Chair with Township Board approval.**

C. Public Conduct.

- 1. Any person shall have the right to tape record, video tape or broadcast the proceedings of the Township Board, but they shall not utilize the electrical outlets of the Township without the prior permission of the Chair.**
- 2. No person shall disrupt a meeting of the Township Board. No person shall commit a breach of the peace at any Township Board meeting. Any person who disrupts a meeting of the Township Board or commits a breach of the peace at a Township Board meeting may be ejected from the meeting. Refusal by a member of the public to stop speaking when the Chair has interpreted that such person's time has expired or if such person speaks when they have no right to do so, such actions shall be deemed a disruption of the Township Board meeting and a breach of peace.**
- 3. Members of the public shall not talk among themselves during a meeting of the Township Board so as to disrupt the meeting, if such talking becomes disruptive it shall cease upon the Chair asking for order.**
- 4. No person shall utilize any profane or obscene speech or gesture.**