

RESOLUTION : PUBLIC COMMENT SECTION OF BOARD MEETING

WHEREAS, The Green Charter Township Board deems it necessary to adopt a procedure policy for the Public Comment Section of a Township Board meeting.

WHEREAS, To provide for reasonable time limit for public comments.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Public Comments will be held to a total of 20 minutes, (unless extended by a vote of said board), **provided everyone has opportunity to speak.**

AND each speaker will be limited to 3 minutes to speak, unless extended by the chairperson.

AND after a particular point has been made, subsequent speakers may speak on any other matters but not restate the same point over and over.

AND this is to assure that the meeting will run in an orderly and timely manner.

AND FURTHER, each individual or organization wishing to be placed on the agenda will abide by the rules Outlined in this above, **PUBLIC COMMENT SECTION OF BOARD MEETING RESOLUTION.**

The foregoing resolution offered by Board member J. Peek and supported by N. Stephan.

Roll call vote 7 yes: Stephan, Peek, Clark, Chapman, MacFarlane, Todd, Cushway

April 10, 2018 regular board meeting

RESOLUTION : PUBLIC COMMENT SECTION OF BOARD MEETING

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WHEREAS, To provide for a reasonable time limit for public comments .

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Public Comments will be held to a total of twenty minutes. unless extended by a vote of said board.

Shall have opp to speak

AND each speaker will be limited to ~~two~~ minutes to speak, unless extended by the chairperson.

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AND after a particular point has been made . subsequent speakers may speak on any other matters but not restate the same point over and over.

AND this is to assure that the meeting will run in an orderly and timely manner.

AND FURTHER, each individual or organization wishing to be placed on the agenda will abide by the rules outlined in this above , PUBLIC COMMENT SECTION OF BOARD MEETING RESOLUTION .

The foregoing resolution offered by Board Member JAMES PEEK and supported by Board Member LAURA MACFARLANE.

PUBLIC ATTENDING OPEN MEETINGS

Excluding individuals – no one may be excluded from a meeting otherwise open to the public except for a breach of the peace actually committed at the meeting.⁶⁵

Identifying public attendees – no one may be required to register or otherwise provide his or her name or other information or otherwise to fulfill a condition precedent to attend a public meeting.⁶⁶

Building security at the meeting site may cause issues. Members of the public might object, based on the OMA, to signing in to gain access to the building where a public meeting is being held.⁶⁷ We, therefore, recommend that public bodies meet in facilities or areas not subject to public access restrictions.

If the public body wishes the members of the public to identify themselves at the meeting, we suggest the board chair announce something like this:

The Board would appreciate having the members of the public attending the meeting today identify themselves and mention if they would like the opportunity to speak during the public comment period. However, you do not need to give your name to attend this meeting. When the time comes to introduce yourself and you do not want to do so, just say pass.

Since speaking at the meeting is a step beyond "attending" the public meeting and the OMA provides that a person may address the public body "under rules established and recorded by the public body," the board may establish a rule requiring individuals to identify themselves if they wish to speak at a meeting.⁶⁸

Limiting public comment – a public body may adopt a rule imposing individual time limits for members of the public addressing the public body.⁶⁹ In order to carry out its responsibilities, the board can also consider establishing rules allowing the chairperson to encourage groups to designate one or more individuals to speak on their behalf to avoid cumulative comments. But a rule limiting the period of public comment may not be applied in a manner that denies a person the right to address the public body, such as by limiting all public comment to a half-hour period.⁷⁰

⁶⁵ MCL 15.263(6).

⁶⁶ MCL 15.263(4).

⁶⁷ In addition, "[a]ll meetings of a public body . . . shall be held in a place available to the general public." MCL 15.263(1).

⁶⁸ MCL 15.263(5). OAG, 1977-1978, No 5183, at p 34.

⁶⁹ OAG, 1977-1978, No 5332, p 536 (July 13, 1978). The rule must be duly adopted and recorded. OAG, 1977-1978, No 5183, at p 34.

⁷⁰ OAG No 5332 at p 538.