

2.4 (f) Rules for Public Comment

Pursuant to the Michigan Open Meetings Act, MCL 15.263(5), the Hamburg Township Board of Trustees establishes the following rules governing public comment at meetings of the Board.

Purpose

The purpose of public comment is to provide members of the public with an opportunity to address the Board on matters within the Board's jurisdiction. Public comment is not intended to be a dialogue or question-and-answer session.

Recognition of Speakers

Individuals wishing to address the Board shall be recognized by the Chair.

Before beginning their comments, each speaker shall state their name for the record.

Speakers may also identify the municipality in which they reside and any organization they represent, if applicable.

No speaker shall be required to disclose a residential street address or present government-issued identification as a condition of addressing the Board.

Time Limits

Each speaker shall be limited to three (3) minutes unless extended by majority vote of the Board.

The Chair may request that repetitive comments be avoided when multiple individuals wish to address the same subject.

Decorum

Public comment shall be directed to the Board as a whole.

Speakers shall not engage in debate with Board members, Township staff, or members of the audience.

Comments shall not materially disrupt the orderly conduct of the meeting.

The Chair may issue a warning to any person whose conduct materially disrupts the meeting. If the disruption continues after a warning, the Chair may direct that the individual be removed consistent with applicable law.

Viewpoint Neutrality

No speaker shall be denied the opportunity to address the Board because of the viewpoint, opinion, criticism, or position expressed.

These rules shall be administered in a viewpoint-neutral manner and solely for the purpose of conducting an orderly meeting.

Board Response

Board members should not respond to questions or comments during public comments.

The Board may:

- request that Township staff investigate a matter
- place an item on a future agenda
- refer the matter to the appropriate department, or
- take any other action authorized by law

Written Comments

May be submitted to the Township Clerk before the meeting and shall be distributed to the Board when practicable.

Nothing in this policy shall be interpreted to restrict speech protected by the United States Constitution, the Michigan Constitution, or the Michigan Open Meetings Act.