

**Washington Township Public Commentary Policy**  
**Approved 3/4/2024**

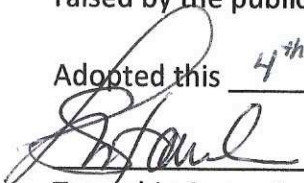
Public Act 96-1473 subsection 2.06(g) states; "Any person shall be permitted an opportunity to address public officials under the rules established and recorded by the public body".

PURPOSE: This policy outlines the Washington Township rules pertaining to "Public Commentary" at any Washington Township open meeting including; ALL board meetings, committee meetings, planning & zoning meetings, workshop meetings or other meetings which may be required.

1. Public Commentary will be allowed only at the allotted time as designated on the meeting agenda. Members of the audience should state their comment or question during public commentary to be noted for the record. However, if appropriate, the Chairman may allow other commentary or questions during the meeting. Appropriate does NOT include interruption or disruption during board member presentation of agenda items or during bid opening or during board member discussion.
2. Any person wishing to address the board MUST sign in on the meeting "Sign In" sheet and on the "Request for Public Commentary" form. Public comments will be presented in the order as they appear on the "Request for Public Commentary" form. No person signing in under an "alias" will be recognized.
3. Each person addressing the Board will be limited to 5 minutes. Public commentary on any single agenda item or topic shall be limited to a total 25 minutes. All public commentary at any meeting shall not exceed 60 minutes.
4. Abusive behavior and profanity will not be allowed. Anyone engaging in such behavior may forfeit their right to speak and may be asked to leave.
5. Continued disruption of meetings that impedes this board from conducting government business as outlined on the agenda will also not be tolerated. Anyone engaging in this behavior may also be asked to leave.

Please note that "public officials" are not required to engage in debate, be made available for abusive, threatening or harassing behavior or required to provide immediate answers to questions raised by the public.

Adopted this 4<sup>th</sup> day of MARCH, 2024.

  
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Township Supervisor

  
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Attest – Township Clerk (Seal)

