

BELVIDERE TOWNSHIP

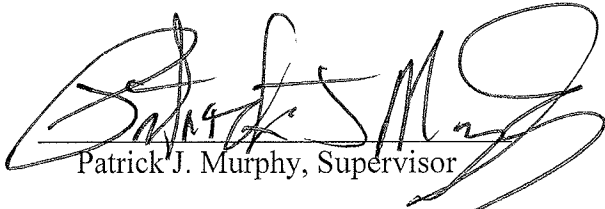
POLICY ON PUBLIC COMMENT AT ANNUAL TOWN MEETINGS

1. It is the policy of Belvidere Township to permit comments by members of the public at town meetings of electors on current agenda items and other matters of public concern. The electors will permit comments by members of the public at regular town meetings at a time specified on the agenda for "Public Comment."
2. Each person wishing to provide comment to the electors will be allowed a maximum of 3 minutes from the time they are recognized by the Moderator until they must stop their comments.
3. Each member of the public seeking to address the electors shall complete a public comment form prior to the meeting, indicating their name, contact information and subject about which they seek to address the electors and shall present the form to the Township Clerk. Preference will be given to Township residents over non-residents. Comments are limited to three minutes per speaker. A speaker cannot give his or her allotted minutes to another speaker to increase that person's allotted time.
4. No person shall address the electors without first being recognized by the Moderator.
5. Each person desiring to address the electors shall first state his or her name and address for the record, state the subject, state whom he or she is representing if he or she represents an organization or other persons, and shall limit his or her remarks to three (3) minutes. All remarks shall be addressed to the electors as a whole and not to any one person.
6. When the elected Township officials are present at a town meeting (as distinguished from a Township Board meeting), they are present as electors, just like other participants. Public comment is not intended to require Township Board members or Township staff to provide any answer to the speaker, although they may voluntarily do so. Discussions between speakers and members of the audience will not be allowed. The Board members will not necessarily respond to the comment provided at the Town meeting. Members of the public who seek to provide the Township Board with comments are encouraged to attend the Township Board meetings.
7. In order to expedite the Township electors' business and avoid repetitions presentations, whenever any group of persons wishes to address the electors on the same subject matter, it shall be in order for the Moderator to encourage that a spokesperson be chosen from the group to address the electors. If additional matters are to be presented by any other members of the group, the Moderator may limit the number of such persons and limit the presentation to information not already presented by the group spokesperson.
8. Township residents shall be given priority in addressing the electors. Visitors' statements and comments shall be limited to matters relating to the Township.
9. Comments shall be presented in a respectful manner, and participants shall conduct themselves in an orderly and civil manner. Comments or language of a lewd, insulting or provocative nature shall not be permitted.

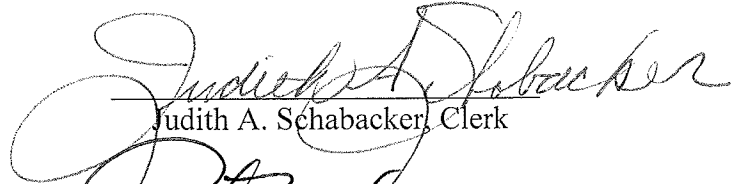
10. After the speaker has made his or her comment, he or she shall be seated with no further debate, dialogue or comment.

11. The Moderator reserves the right to remove anyone who becomes hostile, argumentative, threatens the public's or an individual's safety or is disruptive to the meeting. If the party being asked to leave does not voluntarily leave or cease the behavior, law enforcement will be called to remove the person.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 24th day of July, 2012.




Patrick J. Murphy, Supervisor



Judith A. Schabacker, Clerk



Trustee



Trustee

Trustee

Trustee

Trustee's Robertson and Turner-Excused Absence