

RESOLUTION NO. 23A-97

BE IT RESOLVED by the Township Trustees of Union Township, Butler County, Ohio that:

MOTION TO ADOPT
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION POLICY

PURPOSE: To allow orderly and productive exchanges of views between citizens and officials at meetings of the Township Trustees.

BACKGROUND:

1. Although no legal requirement exists to allow citizens to speak at a trustee's meeting the board may provide such opportunity at its discretion.

Township citizens, business owners and land owners who wish to speak at a meeting of the trustees have a right to be heard at the designated public participation portion of the meeting when a portion of time during the meeting has been set aside for that purpose.

2. Township Trustee's meetings are meetings of the trustees in public. Ohio law does not provide for the "town meeting concept", where every citizen may vote on every issue on the town meeting agenda. Ohio has a representative government, the trustees are the lawful representatives of the citizens.

STATEMENT OF POLICY:

A. A portion of time will be designated and shown on the printed agenda, during each regularly scheduled Township Trustee's meeting for the Board of Township Trustees to receive comments from either citizens, land owners or business owners of the community. Special meetings or work sessions are usually called for a specific purpose and generally do not include a public participation period.

If a large number of people wish to speak, the President of the Board of Township Trustees shall be responsible for allocating the available amount of time among those desiring to speak; generally allowing an equal amount to each person.

B. Individuals desiring to address the Board during the Public Comment period shall be required by the Board President to verbally identify themselves as either a Citizen, a Business Owner or Operator, or Land Owner of the Township and to state their name and address for the record.

The Board is not obliged to receive comments from individuals who are neither a land owner or a resident of the Community nor an owner or owner's representative of a business located within the community; however it may do so with the concurrence of a majority of the Board Members present.

C. Persons making public comments at a Township Trustee's Meeting shall direct their statements to the entire Board and only to the Board. Questions to Township Employees and to individual Board Members should be presented outside of the meeting.

D. Meeting Records:

1. The Record of the Minutes of the Township Meeting shall reflect only the general subject matter, the names and addresses of the speakers, and a brief summary of statements made by persons appearing before the Board.

2. Verbatim transcripts of proceedings or of statements made before the Board of Trustees shall not be made except upon direction of a majority of the Board.

3. Documents and / or written statements (except signed petitions prescribed by law) shall not be accepted from persons appearing before the Board for "inclusion into the record", unless so approved by majority vote of the Board.

Adopted the 8th day of July, 1997

Thomas I. Hayden
Thomas I. Hayden

Yes

Jose Alvarez
Jose Alvarez

Yes

Catherine Stoker
Catherine Stoker Township Trustees

Yes

Attest: Patricia Williams
Patricia Williams Township Clerk