
THE TOWNSHIP OF ZION

LAKE COUNTY, ILLINOIS

ORDINANCE NUMBER

2013-05

**REGULATING PUBLIC COMMENT AND PARTICIPATION AT MEETINGS
OF THE ZION TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

CHERI NEAL, Chairman
DIANE D. BURKEMPER, Town Clerk

JIM TAYLOR
LLOYD DeTIENNE
FRANK FLAMMINI
AL HILL
Town Board

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Township of Zion on October 16, 2013

ORDINANCE

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REGULATING PUBLIC COMMENT AND PARTICIPATION AT MEETINGS OF THE ZION TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES

WHEREAS, the Zion Township Board of Trustees desires to adopt rules governing public comment and participation at Zion Township Board of Trustees meetings; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the Zion Township Board of Trustees, meeting in formal session, that the Board adopts the following rules regulating public comment and participation at meetings of the Zion Township Board of Trustees:

- (a) According to the Open Meetings Act {5 ILCS 120/2.06(g)} any person shall be permitted an opportunity to address public officials under the rules established and recorded by the public body. Public participation in meetings of the Zion Township Board of Trustees shall be permitted in accordance with the provisions of this section.

- (1) (a) Public comments and participation on agenda items.

Agenda item comments shall be made during the Board of Trustees meeting under the “Citizen Comments” agenda heading only, not when the agenda item is taken up for consideration by the Board of Trustees.

- (b) Public comments and participation on non-agenda items.

Individuals desiring to address the Board of Trustees regarding a non-agenda item, for which a resolution has been requested, shall have first made every attempt to resolve the matter with the Zion Township staff and/or the Township Supervisor. If no acceptable resolution is reached, then the matter may be discussed under the agenda heading of “Citizen Comments”.

- (c) Public comments and participation for informational purposes.

Individuals desiring to address the Board of Trustees for the purpose of providing or exchanging information only shall be made during the Board of Trustees meeting under the “Citizens Comments” agenda heading only.

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- (2) Individuals shall be called upon to address the Board of Trustees by the presiding officer of the meeting prior to speaking. Prior to speaking, the individual shall state his name and address for the record. Such comments by any one person shall not exceed three (3) minutes. Citizens shall not be able to yield unused time to other speakers. The presiding officer shall have the right at any time to stop all citizen comments, when, in the presiding officer's discretion, such input violates the provisions of these rules, or is otherwise irrelevant, repetitious or disruptive. After a reasonable period of time has been devoted to citizen comments, and all of those desiring to provide comment have not had a chance to do so, the Citizen Comments section may be closed upon a motion and second of the Board of Trustees and a majority vote in favor thereof. Any person who was not able to address the Board of Trustees will be encouraged to attend a subsequent meeting to address the Board of Trustees or to provide written comments.
- (3) If numerous persons wish to speak on a single topic, the Board of Trustees may recognize a specified number of individuals who wish to speak in favor of, against or wish to make general comments regarding the issue. The Board of Trustees shall not be required to allow every person who wishes to address the issue to do so, but as many views as possible are encouraged to be heard. Any person who is not able to speak during citizen comments shall be allowed and encouraged to present their views to the Board of Trustees in writing.
- (4) Members of the public, as an alternative to speaking, may submit written materials to the Board of Trustees regarding an agenda item.
- (5) Decorum. Members of the public shall not make inappropriate or offensive comments at a Board of Trustees meeting and are expected to comply with the rules. All comments must be civil in nature. Any person who engages in threatening, slanderous or disorderly behavior when addressing the Board of Trustees shall be deemed out-of-order by the presiding officer and his or her time to address the Board of Trustees at said meeting shall end. An individual who violates these rules may be removed from the meeting at the discretion of the presiding officer.

Section II. Severability. In the event that any section, clause, provision, or part of this ordinance shall be found and determined to be invalid by a court of competent

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jurisdiction, all valid parts that are severable from the invalid parts shall remain to be valid in any one or more of its several applications, all valid applications that are severable from the invalid applications shall remain in full force and effect.

Section III. Repeal and Savings Clause. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed; provided, however, that nothing herein contained shall affect any rights, actions, or causes of action which shall have accrued to Zion Township prior to the effective date of this ordinance.

Section IV. Effective Date. This ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage, approval and publication in pamphlet form in the manner provided by law.

DATED this 15th day of October, 2013.

Chairman

ATTEST:

Town Clerk

Filed for inspection on the 16th day of October, 2013.

Presented, read and passed at a regular meeting of the Town Board of the Township of Zion, held on the 15th day of October, 2013.

ROLL CALL:

AYES:

NAYS:

ABSENT:

ORDINANCE PASSED.