

## **A Resolution Establishing a Public Comment Policy for Township Trustee Meetings**

WHEREAS, the Board of Township Trustees is committed to transparency, accountability, and orderly governance in accordance with the Ohio Revised Code; and

WHEREAS, Ohio Revised Code § 121.22, commonly known as the "Sunshine Law," requires that meetings of public bodies be open to the public, but does not require those public bodies to permit public participation during such meetings; and

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes the value of public input and the importance of allowing residents to express concerns, offer suggestions, or ask questions related to Township business in a structured and respectful setting;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Trustees of Trumbull Township, Ashtabula County, State of Ohio, that the following public comment policy shall be adopted and enforced:

### **Section 1 – Public Comment Period**

1. A public comment period shall be provided during each regular meeting of the Board of Trustees.
2. This period shall be scheduled as part of the official agenda and conducted after the completion of formal business items unless otherwise determined by the Chair.

### **Section 2 – Rules of Conduct**

1. Each speaker shall be limited to three (3) minutes.
2. There will be a maximum of (30) minutes for the meetings public comment portion unless permitted to extend by a majority vote of trustees.
3. Speakers must state their name and address for the record prior to commenting.
4. Comments must pertain to Township-related business only. Personal attacks or inquiries, political campaigning, inflammatory language, or unrelated issues to current business are strictly prohibited.
5. Business from the past may be requested via public records request in accordance with ORC 149.43 (Public records act).
6. Trustees shall not be obligated to respond to any question, complaint, or comment at the time it is presented. Any question not answered will be taken under advisement.
7. Disruptive or disorderly conduct may result in the termination of the speaker's time or removal from the meeting.

### Section 3 – Legal Foundation

This policy is adopted pursuant to the Board's authority to establish reasonable rules and procedures for the conduct of its meetings and is consistent with Ohio Revised Code § 121.22, which ensures the public's right to attend meetings but does not mandate public participation therein.

### Section 4 – Implementation

This resolution shall become effective immediately upon its passage and shall be made available to the public through the Township's website and posted at the Township Hall.

Passed and adopted this 6<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2015 by the Board of Trustees of Trumbull Township, Ohio.

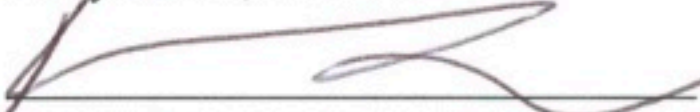
Trustee Name

  
Mark Reed II, Chairman

Vote: yes


  
Larry Morse, Trustee

Vote: yes

  
Adam Niewiadomski, Trustee

Vote: yes

Attest:

  
Marie Rohrbaugh, Fiscal Officer

Motion - Trustee REED

2<sup>nd</sup> - Trustee Morse

(3 eyes)