
**VILLAGE OF SUGAR GROVE
BOARD REPORT**

TO: VILLAGE PRESIDENT & BOARD OF TRUSTEES
FROM: CYNTHIA GALBREATH
SUBJECT: DISCUSSION: AMENDING CHAPTER 1-8-2-G
AGENDA: MAY 7, 2019
DATE: MAY 1, 2019, 2019

ISSUE

Shall the Village Board amend Village Code Chapter 1-8-2-G, Meeting's Rules of Order and Procedures.

DISCUSSION

It has been brought to Staff's attention that the Village of Sugar Grove Code needs to be amended to recognize changes in the Open Meetings Act.

The Open Meetings Act allows for public bodies to make reasonable regulations on public comments. Reasonable regulations include "time, place, and manner" to allow for comments one feels necessary to further a significant government interest. For example, limiting public comments to time limits is permitted. The Village's current code for accepting comments at a meeting calls for a person to state their name and address which has been determined by the Illinois Attorney General to be unreasonable.

The Act does not require a public body subject itself or others to harassment or vulgarity, and rules prohibiting such speech by the public are regularly upheld when they are reasonably enforced. Public officials can also take comfort in the fact that no portion of the Open Meetings Act, or any other law, requires that members of the public body respond to public comments or otherwise engage in a dialogue or debate with a speaker. This is true even if a member of the public demands an immediate answer to their question or concern.

It is Staff's recommendation that an ordinance be prepared to update Code be as follows:

1-8-2 G. Meetings; Rules of Order and Procedures

Visitors: Except during the time allotted for public discussion and comment, no person, other than a member of the board, shall address that body, except with the consent of the

Village President or two (2) of the members present. Members of the public wishing to address the board shall adhere to the following rules and procedures:

- ~~1. Complete the public comment sign in sheet prior to the start of the meeting.~~
2. The village president will call-recognize members of the public to the podium ~~in order of sign-up.~~
- ~~3. Upon reaching the podium, the speaker should clearly state his or her name and address.~~
4. Individual comment is limited to three (3) minutes. The village president will notify the speaker when time has expired.
5. Persons addressing the board shall refrain from commenting about the private activities, lifestyles, or beliefs of others, including village employees and elected officials, which are unrelated to the business of the village board. Also, speakers should refrain from comments or conduct that is uncivil, rude, vulgar, profane, or otherwise disruptive. Any person engaging in such conduct shall be requested to leave the meeting.
6. The aforementioned rules pertaining to public comment may be waived by the village president, or by a majority of a quorum of the village board.

COST

The costs for preparation and codification of the amended ordinance are budgeted.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Board discuss amending the rules for meetings regarding public comment and direct staff.