

2007 RULES OF CONDUCT OF VILLAGE BOARD MEETING

Pursuant to opinions issued by Robert J. Freeman, Executive Director, NYS Committee on Open Government <http://www.dos.state.ny.us/coog/otext/o3295.htm>, the Open Meetings Law provides that public comment at municipal meetings is a privilege, granted at the discretion of the municipal government. It is not a right. Therefore, to encourage the participation of a large number of residents of the community, the Ossining Village Board sets the following conditions for public comments, which may be amended by the Chair as deemed necessary:

SPEAKING AT PUBLIC HEARINGS

After the Call-to-Order, Pledge and Roll Call, visitors shall be accorded one (1) four (4) minute opportunity to address the matter of the Hearing.

ORGANIZATIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

Organizational Announcements shall be event-related only, shall be no longer than two (2) minutes in length and shall contain the following information:

Name of sponsoring organization(s)

Name of event

Date, time and place of event

Cost of admission (if any)

Events announced must be open to all member of the community.

A written copy of the announcement must be provided to the Village Clerk.

SPEAKING TO THE RESOLUTIONS

After Organizational Announcements, visitors shall be accorded one (1) four (4) minute opportunity to address all Resolutions before the Board, as set forth in the Agenda.

Speakers will be recognized by the Chair after a show of hands.

VISITOR RECOGNITION

After New Business, visitors shall be accorded one (1) three (3) minute opportunity to address the Board on issues not relating to the Agenda, but of relevance to the common good of the Village.

Speakers will be recognized by the Chair after a show of hands.

CONDITIONS OF PUBLIC SPEECH

Names and addresses of the speakers are optional.

Please adhere strictly to the time limits.

Unused time cannot be yielded to another speaker or reclaimed later.

Do not mention by name any person, whether Village Employee or other. You may refer to a person's title or job description.

Public comments should be addressed to the Chair and are expected to be voiced in a civil and courteous manner.

Concerns may also be addressed in writing to the Mayor and/or the Village Manager.

Questions will be answered at the discretion of the Chair or at a later date. The Board believes that the venue for its investigation and discussion of new issues is at work sessions, not legislative sessions. Therefore, new issues brought before the Board by a member of the public may be addressed at a future Work Session. The public is invited to submit written explanations of new issues to the Village Manager for possible inclusion on work session agendas, which shall be at the discretion of the Mayor.