

Essex Township Public Speaking Ordinance 25-1

Section 1. Purpose

The Essex Township Board is committed to transparency and public participation and strives to make themselves available and accessible outside of monthly business meetings to address concerns or answer questions. In accordance with the Illinois Open Meetings Act (5 ILCS 120/2.06(g)), the Board shall provide an opportunity for members of the public to address officials at each open meeting, subject to the reasonable rules established and recorded herein.

Section 2. Rules for Public Comment

1. Eligibility- Any member of the public may address the Board during the designated public comment portion of the meeting. Speakers shall state their first and last name and municipality or township of residence for the record prior to making their comments.
2. Time Limit- Each speaker shall be limited to one (1) opportunity to speak per meeting, not to exceed three (3) minutes. At the Board's discretion, officials may engage in limited questions and answers with a speaker. Such dialogue shall not count against the speaker's one opportunity to comment or their three-minute time limit.
3. Total Duration- The Board may, at its discretion, set a reasonable total time for the public comment period to ensure the orderly conduct of business.
4. Order and Decorum- Comments must be addressed to the Board as a whole. Personal attacks, disruptive conduct, or obscene language are prohibited. The presiding officer may direct the removal of an individual whose behavior materially interferes with the Board's ability to conduct business.
5. Yielding Time- Speakers may not yield unused time to another individual.
6. Enforcement- The Presiding Officer may enforce these rules to maintain order and ensure compliance, applying them evenly and without regard to content or viewpoint.