NEWPORT TOWNSHIP

RESOLUTION 2026 - 9

A RESOLUTION GOVERNING PUBLIC COMMENT AT OPEN MEETINGS OF THE NEWPORT TOWNSHIP BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WHEREAS, the Board of Commissioners of Newport Township (the "Board") recognizes the value of public comment on matters of community interest and the importance of allowing members of the public to express themselves on such matters.

WHEREAS, in order to permit the fair and orderly expression of public comment, the Board desires to provide an opportunity at each open meeting of the Board for comment on matters of concern, official action or deliberation before the Board prior to official action by the Board.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved, that the Newport Township Board of Commissioners hereby adopts the following rules and procedures for public comment at its publicly advertised, open Meetings:

1. The opportunity to comment during the public comment session will be open to the following: (a) residents of Newport Township; (b) Newport Township taxpayers; (c) Representative(s) of a company that is a Newport Township taxpayer; and (d) Employees of Newport Township.

2. The comments by any individual shall be limited to three (3) minutes.

   a. The speaker's three (3) minutes will be uninterrupted by the Board so long as the discussion relates directly to matters over which the Board has jurisdiction;
   b. The three (3) minute time limit is continuous and cannot be split up as to time or speakers;
   c. Speakers may not cede their time to other persons;

d. No speaker will be permitted to speak more than once during the public comment session; and

e. Any questions asked by the speaker during the three (3) minutes shall be reserved for answer by the Board, its members, or its staff at the end of the three (3) minute period, if they deem a response is necessary. Board reserves the right to not provide answers at the time of public comment to any questions asked by the public.

3. Any individuals referenced in Paragraph 1 who wish to comment shall, prior to the start of the meeting, register on a form and will include their name, municipality, and business affiliation, if applicable. If commenting on behalf of a company as a taxpayer, then the speaker shall also state the name of the company and the fact that he/she is speaking on behalf of the company.

4. The Board shall require that all public comments related to agenda items be made at the beginning of each meeting and all public comments related to non-agenda items be made at the end of each session.

5. Should the Board determine there is not sufficient time at a meeting for public comments, the comment period may be deferred to the next regular meeting or to a special meeting occurring before the next regular meeting.

6. An individual's right to make public comment(s) may be terminated by the Chairman (or acting Chairman) of the Board if said individual's comment(s):

a. incite an immediate breach of the peace;

b. is/are considered as a whole to prominently appeal to prurient interests, are otherwise obscene, constitute threats of bodily harm, personally directed, abusive, obscene, or irrelevant;

c. go beyond the three (3) minutes. If a speaker violates either (a), (b) and/or (c) of this Paragraph, the speaker will be asked to stop speaking and may be requested to leave the meeting.

7. The Chairman (or acting Chairman) of the Board may

a. Interrupt or terminate a participant's statement when the statement is too lengthy, personally directed, abusive, obscene, or irrelevant.

b. Request any individual to leave the meeting when that person does not observe reasonable decorum.

c. Request the assistance of law enforcement officers to remove a disorderly person when his/her conduct interferes with the orderly progress of the meeting.

d. Call a recess or adjourn to another time when the lack of public decorum interferes with the orderly conduct of the meeting.

e. Waive these rules with the approval of the Board.

8. The meeting agenda shall be available to the press and public prior to all open meetings.

9. All previous Resolutions which are inconsistent with this Resolution are hereby repealed in their entirety.

DULY RESOLVED, by the Newport Township Board of Commissioners this 1st day of June 2026.

ATTEST:

NEWPORT TOWNSHIP BOARD
OF COMMISSIONERS

Joseph Hillan, Secretary

Paul Czapracki, Chairman,