PUBLIC COMMENT IN TOWNSHIP GOVERNMENT & HOW TO HANDLE IT

TOWNSHIP OFFICIALS OF ILLINOIS
2019 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

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PUBLIC COMMENT
ILLINOIS OPEN MEETINGS ACT

• Any person shall be permitted an opportunity to address public officials under the rules established and recorded by the public body. 5 ILCS 120/2.06(h).

PUBLIC COMMENT
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ILLINOIS OPEN MEETINGS ACT
• Rules?
  • Time limitations
  • Topic limitations (items related to the municipality)
  • Location on the agenda
• Public Access
  Counselor Opinions

PUBLIC COMMENT
COMMON QUESTIONS & ISSUES: TIME LIMITS
• Can we limit the time of each speaker?
• Can we limit the total time of public comment?
PUBLIC COMMENT
COMMON QUESTIONS & ISSUES:
CONTENT ISSUES

• Can we limit what is discussed in public comment?
• Can speakers swear?
• Can speakers “attack” me personally?

PUBLIC COMMENT
COMMON QUESTIONS & ISSUES:
PROCESS

• Can we require advance registration?
• Can speakers yield their time to other speakers?
• Where on the agenda should we place public comment?
• Do non-residents have a right to speak?

PUBLIC COMMENT
COMMON QUESTIONS & ISSUES: RESPONSES

• Do we have to answer questions or respond to public comment?