## OVID TOWNSHIP CLINTON COUNTY, MICHIGAN RESOLUTION NO. 2025-07

# RESOLUTION TO ADOPT POLICY FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS AT BOARD MEETINGS

WHEREAS, the Ovid Township Board welcomes and encourages comments from the public who attend Board meetings; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the requirements of the Michigan Open Meetings Act, MCL 15.261 et seq., a person shall be permitted to address a meeting of a Township under rules established and recorded by the Township; and

WHEREAS, the Ovid Township Board desires to establish clear and consistent rules for receiving public comments at Board meetings to promote orderly and efficient proceedings while encouraging civil discourse; and

WHEREAS, the Ovid Township Board has reviewed and considered the proposed Policy for Public Comments at Board Meetings;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Ovid Township Board, Clinton County, Michigan, as follows:

- 1. The Policy for Public Comments at Board Meetings, attached as Exhibit A, is hereby approved and adopted, effective immediately.
- 2. The Township Clerk is directed to record these rules in the minutes and keep them on file as required.
- 3. All resolutions or parts of resolutions that conflict with this resolution are repealed to the extent necessary to give this resolution full force and effect.

Adopted at a regular meeting of the Ovid Township Board held on August 28, 2025

Ayes: 5

Nays: 0

Absent/abstain: 0

Awnshin Supervisor

Township Clerk

#### **EXHIBIT A**

# OVID TOWNSHIP POLICY FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS AT BOARD MEETINGS

#### I. Purpose.

The Ovid Township Board welcomes and encourages comments from the public who attend Board meetings. Pursuant to the requirements of the Open Meetings Act, a person shall be permitted to address a meeting of a Township under rules established and recorded by the Township.

### II. Application

- 1. If an agenda is available, the Township will have copies of the agenda available for the public who attend a Board meeting to review. The agenda shows designated times for the public to provide comments to the Board. These rules apply to the Public Comment Period in any regular or special meeting or any portion of a public hearing where public comment is required or designated ("Public Comment").
- 2. Members of the public have no right to address the Township Board or make comments outside of the Public Comment. At any time, the Township Board, in its discretion, may accept comments from the public. However, outside of the Public Comment time, the Township Board is not required to receive comments from the public.

#### III. Rules of Public Comment

The Township adopts the following procedures to receive public comments at Board meetings:

- 1. When the Township meeting reaches a designated time for Public Comment, the Supervisor (or other person who is chair of the meeting) will call on people for Public Comment.
- 2. The Supervisor (or meeting chairperson) will ask persons wishing to speak to raise their hands to be recognized by the Supervisor or to approach a designated location, such as a lectern or table.
- 3. The Supervisor will recognize one person to speak at a time, and each speaker must provide his/her name and address. No person in attendance may make a comment without being recognized.
- 4. Public comments must be addressed to the Township Board, not to other members of the audience or specific Board members.

- 5. Public comments are limited to three (3) minutes. Each speaker is only entitled to one (1) three-minute time during each Public Comment period and may not split the time or "give" the time to another speaker.
- 6. In lieu of speaking or reading a written comment that exceeds the three-minute time limit, a person may submit any written comments to the Township Clerk. Written comments submitted to the Township are public documents but are not required to be included verbatim in the meeting minutes.
- 7. The Township encourages free and complete public dialogue on Township issues within the bounds of civil discourse. Speakers may not breach the peace of the meeting and are encouraged to refrain from personal attacks.
- 8. The Township Board is not required to respond to questions asked during Public Comment.
- 9. Groups are encouraged to designate one or more individuals to speak on their behalf to avoid duplicative comments. However, there is no requirement to make such designation.
- 10. The Township Board's meeting minutes are not required to include verbatim transcripts or details of any individual comments but will identify the individuals who speak during Public Comment.

### IV. Recording of Rules

These rules shall be recorded in the minutes and kept on file with the Township Clerk.