

TOWN OF OXFORD
PUBLIC COMMENT POLICY
(Adopted 2016)

WHEREAS the Town Supervisor and Town Board agree that the public should have a time during regular stated meetings of the Town of Oxford to address the Town Board and

WHEREAS the Town Supervisor and Town Board feels that a Procedure Policy should be enacted for the governing of the Public Comment portion of the Town Board meetings,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following procedures be designed and implemented to provide guidance for elected officials and the public at regularly scheduled Town Board meetings:

1. A Public Comment period, approximately (30) minutes, may be held at all regularly scheduled Town Board meetings.
2. Speakers will have up to five (5) minutes to make their comments. An individual's time may not be given or traded to other speakers or reserved for other portions of the meeting.
3. Speakers will direct their statements to the Town Board as a whole and not to individual Board member or the audience.
4. Speakers will be requested to say, for the record, their name and organization, if speaking on their behalf. Attendees may not address the Town Board unless recognized by the Supervisor or his designee.
5. Those speaking should be courteous in their language and presentation and stand, if able, when presenting and be seated when finished.
6. Discussion between speakers and attendees of the board meeting is prohibited. A speaker may disagree with or support prior speakers through comments directed to the Town Board.
7. Public comments shall be related to legitimate town business . . . (a) can the town do something about the issue; (b) does the issue impact the town; and (c) common sense.
8. The Town Supervisor may ask disruptive speakers to desist and if necessary be escorted out. Order will be preserved or the session may be terminated by a majority vote of the Board.
9. If any provisions of this policy, at any time, conflicts with legal statute, the statute shall take precedence.