

## **POLICY TO ENCOURAGE EFFECTIVE, EFFICIENT USE OF PUBLIC COMMENT/INPUT TO AID LAPORTE COUNTY COMMISSION**

**In accordance with the Indiana Open Door Law (I.C. 5-14-1.5 et seq.) all regular and special meetings of the Board of County Commissioners will be open to the public. Notice and agendas will be provided by the required forty eight (48) hours before the meeting to the press, posted outside our meeting room as well as posted on the county's website.**

**Because this Board strongly believes in hearing the views of citizens residing in LaPorte County and organizations located here, we seek to adopt a policy to encourage effective and efficient use of public comment and input to aid us in our decision-making on various topics.**

**The following guidelines will assist the Commission in hearing public comment while conducting effective meetings:**

- 1. "Public Comment" will be listed on the agenda not only be at the beginning of every meeting but will also be received before the Board votes on a given resolution or ordinance that appears on the agenda.**
- 2. Each person must give his/her name and address when addressing the Board.**
- 3. As a routine matter, Public Comment will be confined to three (3) minutes per person, however the Presiding Officer may at his/her discretion permit a longer time period for a given comment if he/she believes it is in the 'public interest' for the normal time period to be extended.**
- 4. All statements shall be directed to the Presiding Officer; no person may address or question Board members individually.**
- 5. The Presiding Officer may prohibit comments which are deemed frivolous, repetitive, or harassing. The Presiding Officer may interrupt, warn or terminate a person's statement when the statement is too lengthy, personally directed, abusive, obscene or irrelevant and may request any individual to leave the meeting when that person behaves in a manner that is disruptive to the orderly conduct of the meeting.**
- 6. No person may present orally or discuss at any meeting of the Board any charges or complaints against individual employees of the county, department heads, professional advisors or elected officials without first presenting such charges or complaints to the Board, through the Presiding Officer, in writing, signed and verified by the group or person making the charge or complaint.**
- 7. Remarks by any persons addressing the Board which reflect adversely upon the character and motives of any other person or group are out of order. Also, attacks in the form of inferences, insinuations and innuendoes against the character or motives of any person are out of order.**

As a board, we believe strongly that we as elected officials, our department heads, professional advisors and employees are all servants of the voting public and that we benefit by a wide range of views and input as we deliberate and consider important issues confronting our county. The guidelines above are designed to enhance orderly and efficient receipt of public comment, while at the same time ensuring a level of civility and decorum appropriate for a properly conducted business meeting of the Board.

EXAMINED AND APPROVED BY THE  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF THE  
COUNTY OF LA PORTE, INDIANA  
DATE 2-6-2019

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ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Auditor

LA PORTE COUNTY, INDIANA