

RESOLUTION TO ADOPT POLICY ON PUBLIC COMMENT
AT TOWN OF HURLEY MEETINGS

Resolution No. _____

Moved By _____

Date: April 18, 2023

Seconded By _____

WHEREAS neither the New York State Open Meetings Law nor any other statute mandates that members of the public be allowed to speak during Town government meetings; and

WHEREAS the Town of Hurley encourages participation by residents; and

WHEREAS rules and procedures that are reasonable and treat members of the public equally must be followed;

NOW, THEREFORE, THE TOWN BOARD HEREBY RESOLVES that the Town of Hurley will adopt the following policy for Public Comment period at Town government meetings:

- Public comments will be heard at the start of each Town government meeting, preceded by a verbal reminder by the chair about the comment policy. The policy also will be posted on the town website, and written copies will be available on request.
- Each individual wishing to make a public comment shall have a maximum of two minutes to do so. If more time is needed, written comments may be submitted to the clerk, and they will be entered into the public record.
- Individuals may speak extemporaneously or read prepared comments, though individuals reading comments on behalf of others will still be limited to one two-minute comment.
- Comments must be made in a respectful manner, and without obscenities, insults or threats. Anyone not adhering to this policy will be asked to leave the meeting.
- Public comment is an opportunity for the Town to hear public opinion. The speaker will not attempt to engage the Board in a discussion/dialogue and the speaker should not ask specific questions with the expectation that an immediate answer will be provided, as this is not the intent of the public comment period. Board members will acknowledge the comments but not engage in direct dialogue. Board members may, at their discretion, choose to have a conversation

among themselves regarding issues raised during the comment period. The comment period is not the appropriate forum for open-ended conversations, debates or arguments between the public and board members, or members of the public with one another.

- Comments may be submitted in writing, prior to the meeting by any member of the public who is unable to attend in person, and the comments will be entered into the public record.
- If there are no further comments, the Board may end the comment period earlier than the allotted 15 minutes.
- The public will be made aware of other ways to convey concerns, such as contacting the appropriate Town department head(s) or employee(s) during regular business hours.

Motioned by: _____

Seconded by: _____

	AYE	NAE
Melinda McKnight, Supervisor	_____	_____
Peter Humphries, Deputy Supervisor	_____	_____
Michael Boms, Councilperson	_____	_____
Jana Martin, Councilperson	_____	_____
Gregory Simpson, Councilperson	_____	_____