

## Rules of the Curran Gardner Townships Public Water District

### Relating to public comment at meetings

"Public bodies must give citizens an opportunity to speak at public meetings. The Open Meetings Act requires that "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(g). The board of Trustees adopts the following rules:

1. The Board includes on its agenda a public comment portion of the meeting. Guests are permitted to address the Board during that portion of the meeting and should state their name and address for inclusion in the minutes of the meeting. Guests are allowed up to 5 minutes to address the Board. The time allowed is for the individual guest only and cannot be given to any other person desiring to address the Board.

Reasonable time limits on the length of each comment. *Wright v. Anthony*, 733 F.2d 575, 577 (8th Cir. 1984).

2. Comments from guests are limited to subjects on the meeting agenda, or may include a request that an item be included on a future agenda.

Requiring public comment to be limited to subjects on the meeting's agenda. *White v. City of Norwalk*, 900 F.2d 1421, 1425 (9th Cir. 1990).

3. The presiding officer, *sua sponte*, or at the request of a majority of the Board, may terminate any comment which is not related to an agenda item, repetitious or disruptive.

Allowing the public body to cut off a comment if it is irrelevant, repetitious, or disruptive. *White v. City of Norwalk*, 900 F.2d 1421.

4. Guests who consistently provide commentary outside the portion of the meeting set aside for public comment will be asked to leave the meeting if disruptive behavior continues after a request from the presiding officer to abide by the rules of the Board.
5. During the regular reports given by various members of the staff, members of the Board, and others there will be interaction with specific guests that have input to provide related to the information in that report. This phase is not for open discussion with the entirety of the guests attending the meeting, but is directed to those specific individuals.
6. If a guest has specific questions or concerns outside the items listed on the agenda that they would like the Board or the staff to address, it is requested that those items be noted in a letter to the Board Chairman and/or the Water District's Manager. Either a written response will be provided or the item(s) will be added to the agenda if it is deemed appropriate for the Board to address or be aware of the item(s) noted.