

Michelle Crocker

Doc 1

From: Michelle Crocker
Sent: Thursday, January 25, 2024 8:15 PM
To: Board of Commissioners
Subject: FW: Board Rules - Kent, GT & Ottawa Counties & Benzie County

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	Gwenne Allgaier		Read: 1/26/2024 10:11 AM
	Doug Rexroat		Read: 1/25/2024 10:58 PM
	Jamie Kramer		Read: 1/31/2024 9:54 AM

Dear Commissioners,

Chairman Wessell has requested that I forward to you some information on Board Rules regarding Public Comment.

Below is information from Kent County, Grand Traverse County, Ottawa County and Benzie County. The information from Benzie was from a separate email, I just copied and pasted it in to this one to cut down on emails.

Chairman Wessell would like to discuss this at the February Executive Session.

Sincerely,

**Michelle L. Crocker
Leelanau County Clerk
Clerk-Leelanau County Board of Commissioners**

From: Ty Wessell <twessell@leelanau.gov>
Sent: Thursday, January 25, 2024 9:05 AM
To: Deborah Allen <dallen@leelanau.gov>; Michelle Crocker <mcrocker@leelanau.gov>
Subject: Board Rules - Kent, GT & Ottawa Counties

I spent a bit of time reviewing board rules. I would welcome your suggestions. I would like to amend our rules in February.

Kent County

Rule 3.4 Public Comment

B. A person may address the Board on matters or issues which are relevant to County government. The Chair may disallow public comment that is unduly repetitious, not relevant to County government or matters not under consideration by the Board, or which, in the Chair's opinion, constitute a personal attack upon another. (Kent County)

E. When a group wishes to address the Board, the Chair may offer that the group designate a spokesperson. The Chair will control the amount of time the spokesperson will be allowed to speak which will not exceed fifteen minutes.

F. During the first public comment period, comment will be restricted to the particular issue pending before the Board which appears on that meeting's agenda as an item on which the Board is scheduled to vote. Commenters must tell the Chair on which agenda item they wish to speak. If after hearing the comment made, the Chair determines the comment was not actually related to a pending issue, the Chair may inform the commenter that their comment will be considered as having been made under the second public comment period. During the second public comment period, comment may be allowed on any topic directly relevant to County government. (Kent County)

GT County

6.3.2.7 Addition to Public Comment Language

The following phrase will be added to the public comment language on the agenda:

"Please be respectful and refrain from personal or political attacks." (GT County)

Ottawa County

Speakers shall address all comments to the chairperson of the Board or Committee and not to individual Board or Committee members, County employees or the audience. (Ottawa County)

No speaker may "assign" his or her time to another person. (Ottawa County)

Benzie County

PUBLIC COMMENT Purpose: The Benzie County Board of Commissioners is a public policy setting body and subject to the Open Meetings Act (PA 267 of 1976). The Board also operates under a set of "Benzie County Board Rules (section 7.3)" which provides for public comment during their meetings. It continually strives to receive comment from the residents of the county and reserves two opportunities during the monthly scheduled meeting for you the public to voice opinions, concerns and sharing of any other items of common interest. There are however, in concert with meeting conduct certain rules to follow. **Speaking Time:** Agenda items may be added or removed by the board but initially at least two times are devoted to Public Comment. Generally, however, attendees wishing to speak will be informed how long they may speak by the chairman. All speakers are asked to give their name, residence and topic they wish to address. This and the statements/comments will be entered into the public record (minutes of the meeting). Should there be a number of speakers wishing to voice similar opinions, an option for a longer presentation may be more appropriate for the group and one or more speakers may talk within that time frame. The Board will not be accepting public comment via zoom/online. **Group Presentations – 15 minutes Individual Presentations – 3 minutes**

Board Response: Generally, as this is an "Comment" option, the board will not comment or respond to presenters. Silence or non-response from the board should not be interpreted as disinterest or disagreement by the board. However, should the board individually or collectively wish to address the comments of the speaker(s) at the approval of the Chair and within a time frame previously established, responses may be made by the board. Additionally, the presenter may be in need of a lengthier understanding of an issue or topic and may be referred to a committee appropriate to address those issues. Public Comment is very important in public policy settings and is only one means for an interchange of information or dialogue. Each commissioner represents a district within the county, and he/she may be individually contacted should greater depth or understanding of an issue be sought. Personal contact is encouraged and helpful to both residents and the board

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