

TOWN OF HOWARD

PUBLIC COMMENT POLICY

AS ADOPTED BY THE HOWARD TOWN BOARD

ON JUNE 8, 2022

The Town of Howard Town Board recognizes the right to free speech at their public meetings and that public comment during any governing body meeting has long been a privilege.

The Town Board has established the following policies regarding public comments:

1. The town community member must stand, state their name, and where they live and be recognized by the Board.
2. The community member will be granted 5 minutes to make their comments heard by Board members in attendance. Only 1 member per household will be granted the privilege to speak during this time.
3. The speaker will have the privilege to ask the Town Board members questions relevant to the meeting agenda and/or their topic concerns.
4. During this time no community member will interrupt the speaker. The governing body, however, will reserve the right to stop the speaker if they begin to go off context.
5. The speaker must observe the commonly accepted rules of courtesy, decorum, and respect for all members in attendance:
 - No personal attacks will be used.
 - No threats or fighting words will be used or tolerated.
 - No profanity or vulgar language will be used or tolerated.

If the speaker violates any of these policies, they will forfeit any remaining time and be seated and/or exit the meeting. No disruptive behavior will be tolerated and continuous disruptions can and will result in the disruptor being asked to leave the premises. All these policies will be applied to everyone in attendance.

The Town Board will reserve the right to re-assess these policies.