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Town Of Limerick

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Policy of Hearing of Citizens

The Board of Select Persons encourages citizens of the Town of Limerick to attend Board meetings, conducted at the Town Office at 7:00 PM whenever such meetings are scheduled, all meetings are open to public. If the Monday falls on a holiday it will be the Tuesday immediately following, which are open to both the press and the public except during executive sessions. Executive session allows the municipal officers to meet in closed session for limited purposes as specifically identified in state law. No decisions are made in executive session; rather, it is to allow the municipal officers to discuss a matter privately before acting on a matter before them. The Board encourages residents to bring issues of concern or interest of an individual or of the community to the attention of the Board of Select Persons. Citizen involvement in Town governance enhances the sense of community that makes Limerick a great place to live, work, and visit. Select Board meetings follow an agenda, which lists the issues the Board will address. The Board wants to hear from citizens and recognizes one way for residents to participate is to speak out in the "Hearing of Citizens" section of each Select Board's meeting. The Board of Select Persons also recognizes that efficient, productive, and orderly meetings are essential to ensure full and fair consideration of agenda subjects at each meeting. To balance these two interests, the Board of Select Persons adopted this Policy to govern the "Hearing of Citizens" agenda portion of the meetings.

1. There will be one "Hearing of Citizens" segment at each regularly scheduled Select Board's meeting at the end of each meeting after agenda topics are complete. Each "Hearing of Citizens" segment is limited to ten minutes although the full ten-minute interval will not be reserved for potential comments. Input from citizens regarding agenda topics will be allowed at the discretion of the chair during discussion of the topic at hand. Such input shall not exceed five minutes.

2. All comments or questions are directed to the Chairman from the podium, who will recognize each speaker in turn. Remarks may not exceed three minutes per speaker. Each speaker must identify him/herself and the group he/she represents, if applicable. Speakers may not "read into the record" remarks prepared for or directed to another person or entity. This segment of the agenda is intended for brief, usually informal, comments.
3. A speaker requesting to present a more formal or comprehensive discussion must decide to be on the agenda for that evening. To be on the agenda, one should contact the Select Board Admin prior to Wednesday noon before the Monday Select Board's meeting. The "Hearing of Citizens" segment is not an appropriate time to request an interpretation and/or decision of the Select Board.
4. The Board of Select Persons will not accept written materials distributed at a Select Board's meeting, other than petitions submitted in accordance with state law or a written summary of the speaker's remarks. Individuals or groups must submit written materials for the Board's attention to the Select Board Admin, no later than Wednesday noon before the Monday meeting of the next week for distribution to Board members before the meeting.
5. Individuals or groups who desire a response from the Board of Select Persons are advised to contact the Select Board Admin about placing an item on the Board's agenda for discussion or submit a letter rather than relying on a "Hearing of Citizens" session.
6. Questions about Town affairs and criticisms or concerns about Town policies, actions, or programs are welcome, provided they do not become personal.
7. No personal attacks on any individual or firm, including Town employees, Town officials, or members of the public, will be tolerated during any meetings. Please direct concerns about individual employees or Town officials to the Chairman of the Board of Select Persons outside the public meeting.
8. The Board of Select Persons vests in its chairman the discretion to terminate any remarks if the speaker does not adhere to this policy.

Thank you for adhering to this Policy.

September 3, 2013

Amended 11/04/13

Amended 08/01/2022

John Medici, Chairman:  _____

Wade Andrews, Vice Chair:  _____

Katie Proctor, Select Person:  _____

Gil Harris, Select Person:  _____

Ron Smith Jr., Select Person:  _____