

VILLAGE OF SHERMAN PUBLIC COMMENT POLICY

As adopted (Resolution No. 2014-14) by the Village Board on August 26, 2014.

1. Public comment shall be listed on each regularly scheduled Village Board meetings and persons shall be allowed to address the Village Board as set forth in this Policy.
2. It shall be the policy of the Village Board that any person may address the Village Board at its regular meetings under the public comment agenda item. Public comment shall be listed on the agenda immediately prior to adjournment and/or closed session (if applicable). Public comment shall be limited to three minutes per speaker to speak on any matter pertinent to issues or matters relating to the Village of Sherman. A speaker cannot give his or her allotted minutes to another speaker to increase that person's allotted time. After a reasonable period of time has been devoted to public comment, but not less than 30 minutes, the public comment section may be closed upon a motion and second of the Village Board and a majority vote in favor thereof.
3. Anyone desiring to address the Village Board must sign the public comment sheet prior to the start of the meeting. The person must include their name, address and any other desired contact information, although said person shall not be required to publicly state their address information. If more than 10 individuals desire to make a public comment, the order of speakers shall be by random draw. If an individual is not able to comment due to time limitation, said individual shall be given priority to speak at the next meeting of the Village Board. Any person who is not able to speak during a public comment period shall be allowed and encouraged to present their views to the Village in writing.
4. Speakers will be acknowledged by the Chair of the meeting and shall address the public body, from the designated area in the meeting location and not approach the public body or staff. Speakers will begin their statement by first stating their name for the record.
5. Public comment is not intended to require public officials to provide any answer to the speaker. Discussions between speakers and members of the audience will not be allowed. In addition, after the speaker has made his or her statement, he or she shall be seated with no further debate, dialogue or comment.
6. All comments must be civil in nature. Any person who engages in threatening or disorderly behavior when addressing the Village Board shall be deemed out-of-order by the presiding officer and their time ceased to address the Village Board at said meeting.
7. Public comment shall be allowed in a similar manner at all committee meetings or meetings of subsidiary bodies of the Village.