

REVISED MARCH 6, 2017

RESOLUTION

A Meeting of the Town Board of the Town of Monroe, New York was convened on February 27, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.

The following Resolution was duly offered and seconded to wit:

RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING TOWN OF MONROE MEETING RULES

WHEREAS, New York State Town Law authorizes a Town Board to enact rules and regulations regarding the conduct of public meetings and public hearings conducted by the Town Board, and

WHEREAS, such rules may serve as a basis for preventing verbal interruptions, shouting or other outbursts, as well as slanderous or obscene language or signs, and that a Town Board may regulate actions of the public and others attending meetings so as not to interfere with meetings in a manner that would prevent other in attendance from observing or hearing the substance of such meetings; and

WHEREAS, a Town Board, in carrying out its responsibility to ensure that everyone has a right to participate in a public hearing, may reasonably limit the length of public comments on the subject of the public hearing so that the Town Board can consider various points of view; and

WHEREAS, Town Board meetings in 2016 had often required five to six hours to complete and often extended past midnight requiring members of the public interested in the Town's business to remain late into the night and for extended periods of time; and

WHEREAS, in allowing public comment periods during regular Town Board meetings, the Town Board may limit other comments from the public and Town Board members at Town Board meetings and set a reasonable time limit in order to effectuate the efficient progress of such meetings and Town Board business in a proper and professional forum.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that:

1. The above WHEREAS clauses are incorporated by reference as if set forth fully herein
2. The Town Board of the Town of Monroe hereby adopts the following rules of for all meetings of the Town Board and for public participation at any such meetings of the Town Board. Such rules shall be referred to as "Town of Monroe Meeting Rules."
3. The Town Board hereby reaffirms its prior adoption of Robert's Rules of Order and confirms that the governing edition of Robert's Rules shall be Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, 11th Edition (2011), as the rules governing the Town Board. Such Rules are referred to herein as "Robert's Rules."

4. In the event of a conflict or inconsistency between Robert's Rules and the Town of Monroe Meeting Rules and/or State statutes and and/or applicable State regulations, such Town of Monroe Meeting Rules, statutes and/or regulations shall control and govern in place of the provisions of Robert's Rules of Order. Any provision of the Robert's Rules requiring a two-thirds vote shall, for the purposes of Town Board Rules, require only a majority vote of the Town Board, defined as at least three Town Board members, regardless of the number of Town Board members actually present.
5. The Town Board is a "Small Board" within the meaning of Robert's Rules and accordingly, as set forth in Rule 49, the Town Board recognizes that "some of the formality that is necessary in a large assembly would hinder business" of the Town Board.

TOWN OF MONROE MEETING RULES

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIODS

RULE 1: Although not required by any statute or law, the Town Board shall include at least one public participation period on the Agenda for regular Town Board meetings. However, nothing shall prohibit the Town Board, by majority vote, from suspending public comment or otherwise limiting public during a regular Town Board meetings where such limitations are determined to be necessary or otherwise conducive to accomplishing the business presently before the Town Board.

RULE 2: Public comment during the public participation period of regular Town Board meetings shall be limited to three (3) minutes per speaker and the subject matter of such public comment shall be limited to Town business.¹ Yielding time or otherwise giving time to a speaker to extend the three (3) minute period by another person shall not be permitted. Written comments may be submitted to the Town Clerk in lieu of, or in addition to, a person's oral statement during any public comment period. Such minutes shall become a Town record and the brief nature of the submitted writing may be included in Town Board minutes. However, the full text of such submissions shall not be incorporated into Town Board minutes, unless expressly authorized by resolution of the Town Board.

RULE 3: Any person wishing to speak at a regular public meeting during the public comment period or at a public hearing, must sign the sign-in sheet maintained by the Town Clerk for such purpose prior to the commencement of the Public Hearing or public comment period. Where a public hearing and public comment period will occur during the same Town Board meeting, a person may sign up to speak on the topic of each and every public hearing and for public comment period consistent with the applicable time limits set forth above. For example, a speaker could speak for five (5) minutes during a public hearing and three (3) minutes during public comment at the same Town Board meeting. However, such person may not use the public hearing time to speak on matters not relevant

¹Rule 2 revised by Resolution of the Town Board on 03-06-2017 to add: "and the subject matter of such public comment shall be limited to Town business."

to the public hearing. Any comments made by a person made during public comment that relates to the subject of a public hearing, shall not be considered by the Town Board as part of such public hearing nor made part of the public hearing record. The only public comment to be accepted by the Town Board outside of a public hearing shall be written comments received during the time period set by the Town Board for such purpose.

RULE 4: If a sign-in sheet is not available, a person may raise his/her hand to speak during the public participation period and/or public hearing and may speak during such public comment period/public hearing upon recognition of the Supervisor or Presiding Officer.

RULE 5: Any person speaking during public comment or a public hearing, when recognized by the Presiding Officer, shall approach the podium for such purpose and state his or her name, the street and municipality where he/she resides, and if applicable, his/her group or entity affiliation.

RULE 6: Town Board members shall not respond to a person speaking during the public comment period unless and until all persons desiring to speak during the Public comment period have finished speaking. At such time as all speakers have finished speaking during such public comment period, each Town Board member shall be allotted up to three (3) minutes in total to respond to any questions posed or to provide relevant information in response to the collective comments and questions of the public comment speakers.

RULE 7: Town Board members shall not attempt to answer questions during the time that a speaker is presenting during public comment. Town Board members will note any questions asked and may respond to the speaker at the conclusion of the speaker's public comments.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

RULE 8: Public comment during a Public Hearing shall be limited to five (5) minutes per speaker. In the event that a speaker is the subject of the Public Hearing or has a significant interest in the matter different from that of the general public, such speaker shall, upon approval of the Town Board, be allowed up to the (10) minutes during a public hearing. Yielding time or otherwise giving time to a speaker to extend their permissible time limit by another person shall not be permitted.

RULE 9: Members of the public, other than those called as witnesses by the parties, shall not be permitted to speak during public hearings concerning the removal/discipline of a Town Officer or employee as such hearings shall be limited to presentation of evidence and related submissions by Town representatives and the Town Officer or employee subject to removal/discipline. Time limits during a public hearing concerning the removal/discipline of a Town Officer or employee shall not be applicable as such proceeding shall follow any applicable statute, rule or regulation and shall otherwise be overseen by the hearing officer or presiding officer.

RULE 10: In the case of a public hearing, prior to the close or continuation of the public hearing, Town Board members may be allotted up to five (5) minutes each to respond to questions or otherwise provide relevant information in response to specific comments made by speakers during that session of the public hearing. Further, prior to the close of the public portion of the public hearing, each Town Board member may be allotted up to eight (8) minutes to speak on the issue that is the subject of the Public hearing. However, where the public hearing concerns removal of a Town Officer or employee, Town Board members, if the body making a determination, shall not speak regarding the merits of the proceedings until after the close of the public hearing when deliberations on removal/discipline have commenced.

RULE 11: Written submissions related to public hearings must be made before the close of the public hearing as such time is set by the Town Board.

GENERAL RULES APPLICABLE TO ALL PUBLIC MEETINGS AND HEARINGS

RULE 12: The Town Clerk shall act as the timekeeper or the Town Board may designate another person to be the timekeeper.

RULE 13: Members of the Town Board, speakers and audience members must observe proper decorum at all times. Any statements made during any part of the meeting or during a public hearing by the Supervisor, members of the Town Board, town officials or employees, or members of the general public shall not involve personal, impertinent, or slanderous attacks on individuals, regardless of whether the individual so attacked is an elected official, a town official or employee, or a member of the general public.

RULE 14: Neither speakers, nor Town Board members shall use public comment periods or other time during such meeting for political campaigning purposes, including promoting their candidacy or speaking out against another candidate. However, nothing shall prohibit a candidate from speaking on an Town-related issue merely because he or she is a candidate for political office.

RULE 15: Pursuant to New York State Town Law, the Town Supervisor or Presiding Officer shall control the Town Board meeting. The use of profane, vulgar, inflammatory, threatening, abusive, or disparaging language or racial or ethnic slurs directed at the Supervisor, members of the Town Board, meeting attendees shall not be tolerated and the Town Supervisor shall address any such incidents. Further, any statements, regardless of the nature of the statement, made by a person attending the meeting which is not made during such person's authorized speaking time shall not be tolerated and the Town Supervisor shall address any such incidents. The Town Board has a right to protect itself from disturbance from attendees at a meeting and may order, by majority vote, removal of an attendee, or there Presiding Officer direct removal of an attendee on his own. Removal at the direction of the Presiding Officer is subject to appeal of another Town Board member, but not to appeal of the attendee. Such appeal is not debatable.

RULE 16: In circumstances where the Supervisor/Presiding Officer is not attempting to exert control over the meeting, is temporarily absent, or is the source of the present disorder at the meeting and is failing to preside over the meeting, such Supervisor/Presiding Officer may then be deemed absent as the Presiding Officer by approval of a majority of the Town Board. In such case, a Town Board member may make a motion to suspend the Rules and appoint the Acting Supervisor to take over the role of Presiding Officer until such time as the Supervisor or original Presiding Officer is able to properly return to performing his/her role as Presiding Officer. If the Acting Supervisor is determined to be absent for presiding purposes, the Town Board member making such motion shall propose another Town Board member to act as the Presiding Officer during the absence of the Supervisor/original Presiding Officer.

RULE 17: Comments by speakers must be addressed to the Town Board and shall not be addressed to the audience. Further, attendees may not address the Town Board unless first recognized by the Supervisor or Presiding Officer.

RULE 18: Discussion and exchanges between active speakers and attendees/audience members of the public meeting or hearing are prohibited. A speaker may, however, when properly recognized, state agreement or disagreement with the views of prior speakers in his/her comments directed to the Town Board.

RULE 19: Banners or other signs are not permitted in the meeting room unless, nor shall distribution of flyers within the meeting room be permitted. Nothing shall prohibit a person from holding a lawful sign or handing out flyers outside of the meeting location.

RULE 20: If the Supervisor or Presiding Officer fails to enforce the rules set forth herein, any member of the Town Board may move to require him or her to do so, and an affirmative vote of the majority of the Town Board shall require him or her to do so. Any decision by the Presiding Officer relating to enforcement of the rules set forth herein may be appealed and subsequently overturned by a vote of the majority of Town Board members. Such appeal may be raised by a Town Board member or the affected attendee if properly recognized.

RULE 21: Any person who disregards the directives of the Supervisor or the Presiding Officer in enforcing the rules or who generally conducts himself or herself in a boisterous or inappropriate manner while addressing the Town Board thereby disturbs the peace at a such meeting and will be barred from further participation and shall forfeit any balance of time remaining for his or her comments.

RULE 22: If a speaker who has violated these rules refuses to step down or to refrain from committing/ continuing such violation(s), the Supervisor or the Presiding Officer may direct the individual to leave the meeting room. If the individual declines and/or refuses to leave the meeting room, the Supervisor or Presiding Officer may request the individual to be removed from the meeting room and charged with disorderly conduct as per the New York State Penal Law. The Supervisor's determination is subject to the appeal provisions set forth above as well as the absence of the Supervisor/Presiding Officer provisions of

these rules. The Town Board may, by resolution, designate the person who will sign the supporting deposition and/or Court Information document charging the removed person with Disorderly Conduct.

RULE 23: The following provisions, as modified herein, of Rule 49 of Robert's Rules concerning "Small Boards" shall apply to the Town Board of the Town of Monroe:

- a. Members may raise a hand or asked to be recognized, instead of standing when seeking to obtain the floor and may remain seated when making motions or speaking.
- b. The Presiding Officer need not rise while putting questions to a vote.
- c. The Presiding Officer may without leaving the chair speak in informal discussions and in debate and may vote on all questions as provided for by Code or law.

RULE 24: While there is no statute or applicable regulation that requires an Meeting Agenda to be prepared for Town Board meetings, the Town Board desires to have an Agendas prepared and distributed prior to Town Board meetings. The order of business at regular Town Board meetings shall be as follows:

1. REGULAR MEETING
 - a. Call to Order; Pledge of Allegiance
 - b. Approval of Minutes
 - c. Upcoming Meeting Dates & General Announcements
2. SPECIAL ORDERS
3. DEPARTMENTAL MONTHLY REPORTS (Alphabetical Order)
4. OLD BUSINESS
5. NEW BUSINESS
6. PUBLIC COMMENT
7. EXECUTIVE SESSION (If necessary)
8. ADJOURNMENT

A Board member seeking to take up a matter out of order on the agenda or to introduce a new item of business may request such change on consent of the Town Board, or may (if consent is denied or the member expects the matter to be contested make a motion to suspend the rules for such purpose, identifying the requested change to the Agenda or the new business to be raised. Upon approval of the majority of the Town Board, such business may be taken up immediately by the Town Board.

The Presiding Officer shall prepare and cause to be distributed, Town Board meeting Agendas, in conformance with the Order of Business, as applicable. Pursuant to Robert's Rules, the Agenda distributed in advance to the Town Board is not binding on the Town Board, except as to the Order of Business set forth above. However, as set forth above, the Meeting Agenda, including the Order of Business and specific Agenda items may be modified upon approval of a majority of the Town Board.

The Presiding Officer will announce each Agenda item as it is reached on the Agenda (or amended Agenda). Prior to the business being taken up, a member may move to lay the matter on the table, postpone the matter or refer it to a committee.

RULE 25: Recesses may be taken for a stated period of time either upon consent, without objection, or upon approval of a motion by a Town Board member.

RULE 26: These Town Board Rules may be amended by a Resolution of the Town Board approved by a majority of the Town Board.

RULE 27: The above rules shall take effect at the next ensuing meeting of the Town Board following the adoption of these rules.

RULE 28: The Presiding Officer, or any Town Board member may request an interpretation of these Rules from the Town Attorney.

A current copy of these Town of Monroe Meeting Rules shall be maintained by the Town Clerk and be made available to the public.

6. This Resolution shall be effective immediately.

The question of the adoption of the foregoing Resolution was duly put to a vote on roll call, which resulted as follows:

	Yea	Nay	Abstain	Absent
Harley Doles, Supervisor	[]	[]	[]	[X]
Anthony Cardone, Acting Supervisor	[X]	[]	[]	[]
Gerard McQuade, Councilman	[]	[X]	[]	[]
Michael McGinn, Councilman	[X]	[]	[]	[]
Richard Colon, Councilman	[X]	[]	[]	[]

The Resolution was thereupon duly adopted.

TOWN OF MONROE TOWN BOARD MEETING RULES

History of adoption and amendments.

February 27, 2017: Town Board Rules adopted by Resolution of the Town Board.

March 6, 2017: Rule 2 amended by Resolution of the Town Board to add: “and the subject matter of such public comment shall be limited to Town business.”