

HATTON TOWNSHIP OF CLARE COUNTY BOARD MEETINGS

Resolution No. 25-1

A Resolution concerning:

CODE OF CIVILITY

FOR the purpose of establishing a Code of Civility setting forth the manner in which members of the Board of Hatton Township should treat one another, staff, and members of the public, and establishing regulations for those attending public meetings in order to maintain proper order and decorum.

WHEREAS, civility is synonymous with courtesy, politeness, graciousness, tolerance, consideration, and respect; and

WHEREAS, civility requires that all members conducts themselves in a manner that permits honest efforts at understanding the views and reasoning of others; and

WHEREAS, civility promotes a process that is fair and effective in both appearance and fact; and

WHEREAS, civility is attained through polite action and expression and it promotes a positive collegial atmosphere wherein the Board may operate effectively for the benefits of the citizens of Hatton Township ; and

WHEREAS, civility leads to effective communication and allows the finding of common ground; and

WHEREAS, the presence of the public at all open meetings of the Board of Hatton Township is an integral part of a transparent government; and

WHEREAS, public presence and participation must be adequately accommodated; and

WHEREAS, order and decorum must be maintained so that all members of the public may attend and observe the meeting without interference; and

WHEREAS, Section 3(1) of the Michigan Open Meetings Act, being MCL 15.263(1), provides that the right of a person to attend a meeting of a public body includes the right to tape-record, to videotape, to broadcast live on radio, and to telecast live on television the proceedings of a public body at a public meeting; and

WHEREAS, that section goes on to provide that the exercise of this right does not depend on the prior approval of the public body; however, a public body may establish reasonable rules and regulations in order to minimize the possibility of disrupting the meeting; and

WHEREAS, Section 3(6) of the Michigan Open Meetings Act, being MCL 15.263(6), provides that a person must not be excluded from a meeting otherwise open to the public except for a breach of the peace actually committed at the meeting.

- There shall be no personal attacks, name calling or harassment of other members or members of the public.
- Members of the Board shall not engage in debate with speakers or members of the audience.
- While working toward the will of the majority, members shall respect the rights of the minority, and recognize the importance of achieving consensus.
- All staff shall be treated in a professional, courteous and dignified manner at all times by Board members and the public.
- If disagreement or differences of opinion arise, all members shall demonstrate esteem and deference to colleagues.
- Under no circumstance shall members engage in or threaten to engage in any physical attack on any other individual or make public accusations of impropriety.
- Members of the Board and the public shall not use abusive, obscene, or slanderous language, including the use of profanity, insults or other disparaging and inappropriate remarks or gestures.
- Members shall not exhibit conduct that disturbs the order of the public meeting or presents the Hatton Township Board in an unfavorable light.
- It is the Supervisor's responsibility to maintain order. Members of the Board and the public should honor the Supervisor's role. Objections about the agenda or the Supervisor's actions should be voiced politely and with reason, following the Board's rules of procedure.

B. Conduct of General Public Attending Open Meetings

- The general public may attend any open session of the Board of Hatton Township.
- Members of the public attending an open session may participate in the session only when the public body has invited public testimony, questions, comments, or other forms of public participation.
- An opportunity to address the public body will be provided at each public meeting.
- All remarks of audience members shall be respectful and courteous, free of name-calling and personal attacks. Profanity, combative and other inappropriate language will not be tolerated.
- All statements in public meetings should relate to the business of the Hatton Township Board, and the speaker shall wait until called upon to speak.
- Appropriate time limits may be established for speakers and enforced by the presiding officer of the public body in a respectful and judicious manner.
- Impeding of members of the public while entering, attending, or leaving an open session is not permitted.
- The presiding officer of the public body may order any person who commits an actual breach of the peace to be removed from the session and may request police assistance to remove the person and restore order. A breach of the peace constitutes seriously disruptive conduct involving abusive, disorderly, dangerous, aggressive, or provocative speech and behaviors tending to threaten or incite violence.
- The presiding officer may recess the session while order is being restored.

Adopted by Resolution No. 25-1

Now therefore, pursuant to the above provisions, it is hereby:

RESOLVED, that the members of the Board of Hatton Township of Clare County shall in all their proceedings adhere to the "Code of Civility", a copy of which is attached hereto and made a part hereof.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this "Code of Civility" shall be posted at the entrance to all meeting rooms and on the Hatton Township website and the presiding officer may read aloud all or any part of these regulations prior to the beginning of any meeting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each member of the Board of Hatton Township shall sign a copy of this "Code of Civility" indicating their willingness and commitment to always act accordingly.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

ADOPTED this 18th day of February 2025, by the Board of Hatton Township of Clare County.

HATTON TOWNSHIP BOARD MEMBERS
CLARE COUNTY

William Hilborn

,Supervisor

Linda K. McClain

,Clerk

Molly J. Humphrey

,Treasurer

Nathaniel C. Howell

,Trustee

Wm. F. Guethe

,Trustee

CODE OF CIVILITY

A. Conduct of Public Body Members

- Members shall act politely, calmly, and reasonably during all discussion and debate.