

## **PERSONS DESIRING TO ADDRESS THE BOARD**

### **CONTROL OF MEETING:**

The Board Chairperson shall first caution any person at the meeting who is abusive, disruptive, or out of order, and then ask that person to leave if the person will not stop; additionally, the Chair reserves the right to recess the meeting until the person leaves or is escorted out and order is restored.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

**Matters on the Agenda:** The Board shall allow public comment on items appearing on the agenda during the time the agenda item is considered by the Board. The Chair may limit the total amount of time for comment on any agenda item to no less than 3 minutes for each individual. Comments by the public must be relevant to the item on the agenda being considered by the Board.

**Matters not on the Agenda:** At regular meetings of the Board, members of the public shall be allowed to address the Board of Supervisors on matters not appearing on the agenda which are of interest to the public and which are within the subject matter jurisdiction the Board. Pursuant to the Ralph M. Brown Act, the Board shall not take any action or discuss any matter not appearing on the agenda; although staff may be asked to briefly respond to or follow up on such items.

The Board will allocate at least 15 minutes for receiving public comment during any Board meeting. The chairperson of the Board may limit any individual desiring to address the Board to no less than 3 minutes. Time to address the Board will be allocated on the basis of the order in which the requests were received.

At special meetings of the Board, there will not be a scheduled public comment period allocated for items not on the agenda. Public comment will only be allowed on matters appearing on the agenda at the time they are discussed by the Board.

### **PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

All members of the public shall be allowed to address the Board as to any item which is noticed on the Board's agenda as a public hearing. The Board may limit any person's input to not less than three (3) minutes. Any person may provide the Board with a written statement in lieu of or in supplement to any oral statement made during a public hearing. Written statements shall be submitted to the Clerk of the Board.

Whenever a public hearing is conducted, the public hearing is closed, and the matter is continued to a subsequent meeting for Board deliberation and/or action, the Board shall not allow public comment and/or testimony on that item at the subsequent hearing. However, at the initial public hearing, prior to taking action, the Board may, at its sole discretion, elect to continue the matter and to reopen the public hearing. At the subsequent hearing, all information will be considered. The Board may also, at the initial public hearing, prior to taking action, announce that the public hearing is being continued for specific information and the public testimony will only be heard on new information specific to the Board's direction. After the public hearing is closed, if the Board later decides to reopen the public hearing for public testimony, appropriate notices must be published.

### **ORDER AND DECORUM:**

Individuals or organizations desiring to address the Board shall: 1) Address the Board from the podium after giving name and city of residence. Speakers shall direct their comments to the Board, not the audience; 2) Comment on the specific matter before the Board with reasons for the position taken; 3) A time limit of at least three minutes per speaker will be provided for all oral comments. Time limits may be increased at the Chair of the Board's discretion; 4) The chair may, at his or her discretion allow five (5) minutes for those who are serving as a spokesperson for a group or organization; 5) A speaker may not yield time to another speaker; 6) No individual may speak more than once during the Public Comment period or on an item on the agenda unless recognized by the Chair as having new information; 7) In the interest of civil discourse, the same rules specified in the Board Order and Decorum (adopted every year

by Resolution) and Robert's Rules of Order (General Henry M. Robert) shall apply for this section as well, and are hereby incorporated by reference. It shall be the responsibility of the Chair to ensure public comments are conducted in such a manner that avoids disruptive activity, promotes mutual respect, keeps comments focused on issues, and avoids personal attack; and 8) Applicants, applicant representatives and appellants desiring to speak shall be permitted to speak first during the public comment portion of a public hearing for not more than ten (10) minutes (or fifteen (15) minutes at Appeal Hearings), unless different rules for conducting the hearing are provided by County code. Time limits may be increased at the Chair of the Board's discretion.

**ORDINANCES:**

By statute, an ordinance may be passed immediately upon introduction only after notice and a public hearing.

An urgency ordinance may be passed immediately upon introduction.

Ordinances shall not be passed within five days of their introduction, nor at other than a regular meeting or at an adjourned regular meeting unless authorized by statute as indicated above. The Board of Supervisors will address ordinances at first readings. The public is urged to address ordinances at first readings; as passage of ordinances will be held at second readings, after reading the title.

Adoption of the ordinance is made by majority vote.

The Board reserves the right to amend any proposed ordinances and to hold a first reading in lieu of a second reading. (Gov. Code Section 25131, et seq.)

**INFORMATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE:**

The Board may direct any item of informational correspondence to a department head for appropriate action.

**REFERENCES:**

Nevada County Resolution 13-050 (*Public comment*)

Ralph M. Brown Act, California Government Code Sec. 54950, et. seq. (*Open meetings law*)

Nevada County Land Use Code Sec. L-II 5.12 (*Appeals*)