

## CHAPTER VIII

### *Participation by the Public*

#### Rule 44 Use of Speaker's Request Form

Members of the public who wish to discuss a consent, discussion, or public hearing item or make comments during the public comment portion of the meeting ~~must~~ ~~should~~ complete a speaker request form and deposit it with the Clerk prior to the Clerk's reading of the agenda item. The Clerk will then advise the Board of such request prior to the vote approving the item. A member of the public who attempts to address the Board without having submitted a speaker request form will be called out of order, and may be found in violation of Rule 46.

Any individual member of the public wishing to comment on an item that is on ~~may~~ ~~pull an item from~~ the consent calendar may pull the item for discussion by submitting a speaker request form on that item and cause a separate vote by the Board. A member of the public, ~~and~~ may speak to each item for which he/she has submitted a speaker request form for no longer than three (3) minutes prior to the vote being called on the item, subject to the provisions of Rule 47.

#### Rule 45 Public Comments/Time Limits

Under the Public Comments portion of the meeting, members of the public will be allowed to address the Board regarding any off-agenda item within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board. No action may be taken on off-agenda items unless authorized by law.

Exhibit 1- Proposed Amendments to Rules 44 – 47  
(Strike-through Version)

~~Comments under t~~The Public Comments portion of the meeting shall be limited to ~~three (3) minutes per speaker, and~~ twenty (20) minutes cumulative total for all ~~comments~~speakers, unless different time limits are set by the Chair.

Rule 46 Addressing the Board

At the appropriate time, the Chair or the Clerk will call the names of members of the public desiring to address the Board. After approaching the lectern, the speaker ~~shall~~is requested to announce their ~~speaker's~~speaker's name and city of residence for the audio record.

All remarks and questions shall be addressed to the Board as a whole and not to any individual Board member. No question shall be asked of any Board or staff member without first obtaining permission of the Chair. Each person who addresses the Board shall refrain from making personal, impertinent, slanderous or profane remarks to any member of the Board, staff or the general public. Any person who makes such remarks, or who utters loud, threatening, personal or abusive language, or engages in any other disorderly conduct which disrupts, disturbs or otherwise impedes the orderly conduct of any Board meeting shall, at the discretion of the Chair, or a majority of the members, be barred from further addressing the Board at the meeting. If such conduct thereafter continues so as to disrupt the orderly conduct of the public's business, the Chair shall order the person removed from the meeting room. Aggravated cases may be prosecuted on

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appropriate complaint signed by the Chair, a member of the Board or any other County representative.

For purposes of this Rule, a speaker will be deemed to “disrupt” a Board meeting by speaking too long beyond the limits set by these Rules or the Chair, by being unduly repetitious, by extended discussion of irrelevancies, or by violating the requirements of Rule 44.

Rule 47      Time Limits

Each person addressing the Board shall be limited to three (3) minutes; on any agenda item (whether on the consent or discussion calendar), during any public hearing, and during the public comment period, unless a specific extension of time is requested and is granted by the Chair. A member of the public wishing to address the Board on multiple items shall be limited to a cumulative total of nine (9) minutes for the entire meeting. Each time a member of the public speaks on any item, his or her total time of nine (9) minutes for that Board meeting shall be reduced by the full three (3) minutes permitted for that item and any unused portion of the speaker’s three (3) minutes on one item shall not be carried over to another item. When any group of persons wishes to address the Board on the same subject matter, it shall be proper for the Chair to require that a spokesperson be chosen to represent the group, so as to avoid unnecessary repetition.