

## **RULES OF ORDER OF THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF SARATOGA**

1. The Supervisor shall preside at all meetings of the Board and shall preserve order and decorum in debate.
2. The Board shall be called to order by the Supervisor. A quorum must be present in order to conduct business of the town. A quorum shall be defined as three members of the Town Board.
3. The Supervisor, immediately following the opening of every regular meeting of the Board, shall proceed to the regular order of Town business as follows: Roll Call, Approval of Minutes, Town Clerk's Report, Zoning Officer's Report, Dog Control Officer's Report, Town Court Report, Tax Collector's Report, Historian's Report, Assessor's Report, Highway Superintendent's Report, Supervisor's Report, Public comments on agenda items, Committee reports, Old Business, New Business, Communications, Privilege of the Floor, Auditing Bills, Establishment of the Next Regular Meeting, Adjournment.
4. Public Hearings: It shall be the duty of the Supervisor to preside at all general or special business hearings, to instruct all persons addressing the Board to state their names, addresses, and to state whether they are for or against the proposal. Those in favor of the proposal before the Board should speak first and those in opposition should speak last. At such hearings the Board may have special rules and prescribe the time to be allotted as 3 minutes to each speaker. Once all persons wishing to speak have spoken once, any person wishing to speak a second time may do so for a maximum of 2 minutes.
5. At the close of the public hearing as provided for in paragraph "4" above, the Supervisor may grant any member of the general public in attendance at such meeting a reasonable opportunity to be heard on any question or subject in which the Town is concerned.
6. Every resolution or motion must be seconded before being put to a vote by the Supervisor and all resolutions or motions shall be recorded in their entirety in the official minutes of the Town Board.
7. The Supervisor may offer or second a resolution or a motion and need not relinquish the chair for such purpose.
8. No motion or resolution may be brought to a vote except by the majority consent of those present unless printed or typewritten copies thereof are presented to each member of the Board 48 hours prior to the opening of the meeting at which such motion or resolution is offered.
9. No member shall speak more than once on any questions until every member choosing to speak shall have spoken, nor more than twice in any case without leave of the Board.
10. When a question is under debate, no motion shall be entertained unless (a) for an adjournment or recess, (b) for the previous question to lay on the table, (c) to postpone to refer to a committee, or (d) to amend.
11. A majority vote of all the members of the Board shall be required to suspend these rules of order. A majority of the Board shall constitute a quorum.
12. If the above stated rules are or become at any time in conflict with the statutory law, the statutory law shall take precedence.
13. No member of the public shall engage in any demonstration, booing, hand clapping or otherwise disrupt the formality of a Town Board meeting.
14. Any persons speaking to the town board with the consent of the supervisor shall address their remarks to the town board, not to other members of the audience in the form of a debate. Residents will be limited to speaking for three minutes unless extended by permission of the majority consent of the Board. All persons speaking will be given respect and courtesy and in return are expected to be respectful and courteous. The use of profane and inappropriate language is not acceptable.