

On Thursday, September 14, 2017, 9:23:37 PM CDT, James V. Ferolo <jvferolo@ktjlaw.com> wrote:

Dear Ms. Wilson:

The Village of Wheeling has established rules governing Public Comment in Section 2.03 of the Village Code. First, Section 2.03.060(a) states, in relevant part, that “[m]embers of the general public may address the board with concerns or comments regarding issues relevant to village business” and that persons are limited to “five minutes to present their points.”

The same section provides: “The village president or his designee shall strictly restrain comments to matters that are relevant to village business and shall not permit repetitious comments or arguments.”

Further, the Village has adopted Robert’s Rules of Order. (See Section 2.03.210 of the Village Code). The Village has further adopted rules of decorum, which apply to all people, including the public. The rules of decorum protect against interruptions (2.03.180(d)) and allow the Village President to eject “any person other than a Village officer who interferes with the orderly conduct of the meeting or who persists in disorderly, disruptive conduct.” 2.03.180(a).

Robert’s Rule of Order No. 7 states “Speakers must address their remarks to the presiding officer, be courteous in their language and deportment, and avoid all personalities, never alluding to the officers or other members by name, where possible to avoid it, nor to the motives of members.” Rule No. 7 further provides: “Debate must address issues not personalities and that no one is permitted to make personal attacks or question the motives of other speakers.” These rules govern decorum for anyone who wishes to participate during Citizens Concerns and Comments. While citizens have the right to be critical of elected officials in the performance of their duties, such comments must be made within the boundaries of the above stated rules.

The Village expects that you will govern yourself accordingly.

Thank you

James V. Ferolo