



OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
STATE OF ILLINOIS

Lisa Madigan
ATTORNEY GENERAL

November 22, 2013

Mr. Gary Weinard, Chairman
Vermilion County Board
6 North Vermilion Street
Courthouse Annex - 3rd Floor
Danville, Illinois 61832

RE: OMA Request for Review – 2013 PAC 26891

Dear Chairman Weinard:

The Public Access Bureau has received a Request for Review under section 3.5(a) of the Open Meetings Act (OMA) (5 ILCS 120/3.5(a) (West 2012)) from Mr. John Kraft alleging that the Vermilion County Board (Board) violated OMA by imposing an unestablished and unrecorded rule limiting public comment during the Board's November 12, 2013, meeting. Section 2.06(g) of OMA (5 ILCS 120/2.06(g) (West 2012)) provides: "[a]ny person shall be permitted an opportunity to address public officials under the rules established and recorded by the public body." Enclosed is a copy of the Request for Review.

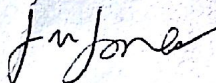
We have determined that further inquiry is warranted. In order to further evaluate this matter, we request that the Board or its representative respond in writing to the allegations raised by Mr. Kraft's Request for Review. Specifically, please clarify the Board's policies on public comment during open meetings and provide this office with a copy of any written Board policy on public comment. Please also provide this office with the meeting minutes from the November 12, 2013, meeting (both open and closed, draft form, if necessary), along with a copy of the agenda. In addition, please clarify whether Mr. Kraft was permitted to address the Board.

As required by section 3.5(b) of OMA (5 ILCS 120/3.5(b) (West 2012)), please provide this information to our office within 7 business days after receipt of this letter. As we review this matter, we will notify you if we require additional records or information. Please note that under OMA, this office is required to forward a copy of any response from a public body to the requester and provide the requester an opportunity to reply. (5 ILCS 120/3.5(c) (West 2012)). The Act also permits a public body to provide a redacted version of any response for release to the requester.

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Please contact me at (312) 814-1679 if you have questions or would like to discuss this matter. Thank you.

Very truly yours,



JOSH JONES
Assistant Attorney General
~~Public Access Bureau~~

Enclosure

cc: Mr. John Kraft (will receive letter only)
7060 Illinois Highway 1
Paris, Illinois 61944