



OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
STATE OF ILLINOIS

Lisa Madigan  
ATTORNEY GENERAL

August 3, 2017

*Via electronic mail*  
Ms. Rogene Hamilton



*Via electronic mail*  
Mr. Joseph Musso, Supervisor  
Pecatonica Township Board  
328 East 9th Street  
Pecatonica, Illinois 61063  
pectwnsp@frontier.com

RE: OMA Request for Review – 2017 PAC 48439

Dear Ms. Hamilton and Mr. Musso:

This determination letter is issued pursuant to section 3.5(e) of the Open Meetings Act (OMA) (5 ILCS 120/3.5(e) (West 2016)). For the reasons that follow, the Public Access Bureau concludes that the Pecatonica Township Board (Board) did not violate OMA when it changed the time of its meetings. The Board, however, did violate OMA by improperly restricting Ms. Rogene Hamilton's right to address its members at a public meeting.

On June 22, 2017, Ms. Hamilton submitted a Request for Review to the Public Access Bureau alleging that during the Board's May 16, 2017, meeting, the Board improperly limited her remarks to two minutes instead of five, attempting to change its public comment rules extemporaneously rather than following its established practice. Additionally, Ms. Hamilton alleged that sometime during May 2017, the Township Supervisor, Mr. Joseph Musso, had stated that future meetings would begin at 7:00 p.m. rather than the published time of 6:00 p.m., but that the Board neither voted on nor was given notice of that change. On June 28, 2017, this office forwarded a copy of the Request for Review to the Board and asked it to provide this office with copies of the agenda, open session minutes, and open session recording (if one was

