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From: Rosemary Mesley

Sent: Wednesday, January 31, 2018 2:06 PM

To: Corrina Giles <cgiles@thebluemountains.ca>

Cc: Rosemary Mesley

Subject: Public Participation

Good afternoon Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillors

My name is Rosemary Mesley and I am a full time resident of the Blue Mountains. I am speaking before you on behalf of Citizens' Forum.

The reason for this presentation is to support Staff Report B.1 FAF.18.13 Proposed Changes to the Town Procedural By-law 2009-59, specifically in regards to the public participation portion of the report.

Any By-law which seeks to improve communication and engagement between members of Council and members of the Public is to be encouraged.

Public participation allows the public an opportunity to present an issue, pose a question, make a recommendation or otherwise present information to Council on an issue at regular Council and/or Committee meetings.

During Council meetings, we would like to see up to a maximum of fifteen (15) minutes allocated in the early portion of the agenda for items listed and items not listed on the Council agenda. Each person would be allowed approx. two (2) to five (5) minutes (dependant on the number of requests) for public participation. We understand that the Council meeting typically have a full agenda, and time constraints need to be in place.

For items listed on the agenda an opportunity to respond after the item has been presented for a two (2) to five (5) minute period if not presented at the earlier opportunity.

During COW meetings, we would like to see a public participation portion allocated at the start of each Committee session.

Comments for both Council and COW meetings are addressed to Council as a whole, not individually, and comments are restricted to Municipal Affairs only (comment however, need not relate to a specific agenda item).

No immediate action or discussion is required on the day from Council or Staff regarding an item not on the agenda.

Comments must be submitted to the Clerk to be included in the minutes of the meeting;

The reason for requesting this Public Participation to become part of the Town's Procedural By-Laws are as follows:-

1. The public can get the attention of all members of council at once,
2. The issue maybe time sensitive, and the deadline to present deputation may have passed.
3. The simple format ensures a more informal process for the Public to engage Council, and may encourage greater participation in Municipal Affairs.
4. Other Municipalities that surround TOBM, already have the opportunity for public commentary at Council meetings, including Owen Sound, Meaford, Grey Highlands, Clearview and Wasaga Beach.

I personally, had the opportunity to engage Clearview Council in an open session; the issue was time sensitive, the information I provided under Public Participation was important for Council to hear immediately, and they were grateful that I had taken the opportunity to make them aware of a situation when I did. It was followed thru with a meeting with 2 councillors, 2 staff and our small group and the issue was successfully resolved.

I hope this Council will move forward with the recommendation from Staff. I hope that the Public can provide comments however, on ALL Municipal matters at this time, not just restricted to agenda items.

If any further information is required I would happy to assist.

Sincerely

Rosemary Mesley