

NETHER PROVIDENCE TOWNSHIP, DELAWARE COUNTY

RESOLUTION 2021-10

**A RESOLUTION ADOPTING RULES AND REGULATIONS
REGARDING PUBLIC COMMENT AT PUBLIC MEETINGS
OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

WHEREAS, pursuant to the laws governing open meetings, 65 Pa.C. S. § 701, et seq. (the " Sunshine Act"), Nether Providence Township is an " agency" as defined by the Sunshine Act; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of this document is to set forth further rules and regulations regarding the conduct of public meetings of the Board of Commissioners of Nether Providence Township (hereinafter the " Board of Commissioners").

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioner hereby adopts the following Rules and Regulations regarding Public Comment at Public Meetings of the Board of Commissioners:

1. **SCOPE OF PUBLIC COMMENT:** The scope of public comment, as defined in the Sunshine Act, shall be limited to matters of concern, official action or deliberations which are or may come before the Board of Commissioners. These matters are defined by the First Class Township Code which sets forth the powers and responsibilities and delineates the corporate and specific powers of the Board of Commissioners. Public comment is not intended for the purpose of solely reciting or reading legislation, ordinances, or other such documents.

2. **PROCEDURES FOR ACCEPTING PUBLIC COMMENT AT REGULAR OR SPECIAL MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

a) **Resident or Taxpayer:** The Board of Commissioners shall provide a reasonable opportunity for residents or taxpayers of the Township at the beginning of each regular or special meeting to comment on all matters listed for official action and to comment on any other matters of concern or deliberation which are or may come before the Board of Commissioners. In the course of each regular or special meeting, residents or taxpayers may also be recognized at the discretion of the President of the Board of Commissioners or Vice President of the Board of Commissioners (hereinafter the "Presiding Officer"), whoever is presiding over the meeting on behalf of the Board of Commissioners, in order to provide comments or information which may be helpful to the Board of Commissioners in its deliberations on a matter before the Board of Commissioners.

b) **Nonresident or non-taxpayer:** Extending the courtesy of public comment to nonresident or non-taxpayer individuals is discretionary. If a nonresident or non-taxpayer wishes to address the Board of Commissioners on a matter for official action or a matter of concern, the Board of Commissioners may extend the courtesy of public comment and may want to provide for this

comment, especially if the individual(s) has information that may be helpful or in the best interests of the Township for the Board of Commissioners to consider.

3. TIME LIMIT: The purpose of a time limit is to ensure that all wishing to speak have the opportunity to do so, that all shall have an equal opportunity to speak, that the Board of Commissioners shall receive all comments on matters for official action prior to voting, and that the Board of Commissioners shall be able to conduct the required business of the meeting agenda. Generally, each person to address the Board of Commissioners shall be provided a maximum of three (3) minutes to present his or her topic. The Presiding Officer shall have the discretion of granting additional time to a speaker if the speaker has information that may be helpful or in the best interests of the Township for the Board of Commissioners to consider. Each individual shall have one opportunity to make public comment.

4. COMMENT DIRECTED TO PRESIDING OFFICER. All public comment shall be directed to the Presiding Officer. After an individual provides public comment, the Presiding Officer may offer Commissioners an opportunity to respond if desired.

RESOLVED this ____ day of _____, 2021.

TOWNSHIP OF NETHER PROVIDENCE

By: _____
Micah Knapp, President
Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

David Grady,
Township Manager