

**Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians
Tribal Council Public Hearing Policy
for General Rules of Conduct**

A. Statement of purpose

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance to the public and Tribal Council in holding Public Hearings that are held to gather testimony or comment for a specific purpose in a respectful manner.

B. Notice of Hearing

All public hearings shall be posted at least five (5) days in advance of the hearing.

C. Hearing Requirements

1. A quorum of Tribal Council members is not needed to hold a public hearing.
2. All public hearings shall be recorded.
3. The Legislative Leader or his or her designee shall preside over the meeting as the Presiding Councilor.
4. The hearing shall be called to order by the Tribal Council through the Presiding Councilor.
5. All public hearings shall be open to all Tribal Citizens or otherwise invited guests.

D. Testimony

1. Each person that testifies shall first receive recognition from the Presiding Councilor.
2. The Presiding Councilor shall have each of the individuals that are going to testify to indicate the following:
 - a. Name and Tribal Affiliation
 - b. Honesty Statement: *“All of the information that I present will be true and honest.”*
3. The Tribal Council members may ask further questions and/or seek clarification by directing questions to the person testifying.

4. Persons testifying may not ask questions of the Tribal Council but instead will provide information to the Tribal Council unless otherwise indicated by the Tribal Council.
5. The Presiding Councilor may limit testimony if it is irrelevant, incompetent or repetitious.
6. Persons under the age of 18 shall only testify with permission from a parent or legal guardian.
7. Written public comment will be accepted by the Tribal Council Legislative Office, Administrative Complex, 7500 Odawa Circle, Harbor Springs, MI 49740, any time prior to the hearing and within fifteen (15) days after the completion of the hearing. It must be signed, dated and tribal affiliation indicated.
8. Testimony may be limited to Tribal Citizens, spouse of a Citizen, or parent of a minor Citizen of the Little Traverse Bay Bands of Odawa Indians. All others may be allowed to testify upon approval of the Presiding Councilor.
9. A time limit for each person testifying may be set by the Presiding Councilor.

E. Hearing Conduct

1. The Presiding Councilor will take reasonable actions to ensure that the hearing is conducted orderly.
2. The Presiding Councilor may terminate the testimony of an individual if he or she is considered disorderly, abusive or disruptive.
3. The Presiding Councilor may prevent the encouragement of audience demonstrations, such as applause, cheering, display of signs, or other conduct disruptive of the hearing;
4. The Presiding Councilor, in maintaining order may warn a person engaging in conduct which is disruptive of the hearing, to stop such disruptive conduct upon penalty of removal. If such disruptive person continues to cause disruption the Presiding Councilor may then order such person removed from the hearing without further warning.
5. If the hearing becomes disruptive, the Presiding Councilor may adjourn the meeting.

