

The need for Public Peace during Board of Review Meetings is crucial for several reasons, all aimed at ensuring a fair, efficient, and respectful process:

- **Fairness and Due Process:**
  - Board of review meetings involve decisions that directly impact property owners' financial obligations. Disruptions and disturbances can compromise the board's ability to carefully consider evidence and arguments, potentially leading to unfair or inaccurate assessments.
  - Maintaining order ensures that all participants have an equal opportunity to present their case without intimidation or undue influence.
- **Efficiency and Timeliness:**
  - Disruptions and outbursts can significantly prolong meetings, delay decisions and increase costs for both the municipality and property owners.
  - A peaceful environment allows the board to focus on the matters at hand, ensuring that cases are handled efficiently and in a timely manner.
- **Respect for All Participants:**
  - Board members, municipal staff, and property owners all deserve to be treated with respect. A peaceful atmosphere fosters respectful dialogue and minimizes the potential for conflict.
  - It is important that people feel safe and heard when addressing the board.
- **Maintaining Public Trust:**
  - The board of review process is a critical component of local governance. Maintaining order and decorum helps to uphold public trust in the integrity of the assessment system.
  - People are more likely to respect the outcomes of the meetings if they feel the meetings were conducted in a professional manner.
- **Legal Requirements:**
  - In many jurisdictions, there are legal requirements for open meetings and public hearings to be conducted in an orderly and respectful manner. Disruptions can potentially lead to legal challenges and invalidate the board's decisions.
- **Preventing Escalation:**
  - Property taxes can be a very emotional subject. Allowing meetings to devolve into chaos can easily cause an escalation of tensions, and in extreme cases, could lead to physical violence.

In essence, maintaining Public Peace during Board of Review Meetings is essential for upholding the principles of fairness, efficiency, and respect, and for ensuring the integrity of the assessment process.