

**AGENDA # J.8**  
**Scio Township Board of Trustees**  
**Adoption of Policy to require all Scio Township committees to follow requirements of the**  
**Open Meetings Act**

**FOR MEETING DATE OF:** January 9, 2024

**PREPARED ON:** December 30, 2023

**PREPARED BY:** Jessica Flintoft

**SUBMITTED BY:** Clerk

**ITEM TYPE:** Possible Action

**BACKGROUND:** The Board of Trustees relies on various committees and commissions for advice. While some of these bodies are public bodies and legally subject to the Michigan Open Meetings Act (OMA), others may not be. Regardless, it has been the predominant practice of Scio Township boards, committees, and commissions to follow requirements of the Open Meetings Act because doing so serves the public good.

However, in the absence of a policy requiring compliance with requirements of the OMA, there are occasions when a committee or commission may not abide by these typical practices. Given the Township's reliance on committees and commissions for advice on matters of public importance, it is important to adopt a Board policy requiring that all Township boards, committees, and commissions abide by the requirements of the Open Meetings Act--regardless of if they are required to do so by state law.

Thank you to Township Attorney Jim Fink for his work in drafting this policy for the Township.

Attached for reference is the OMA Statute and Attorney General's Handbook on the OMA.

**RECOMMENDATION:** Township Attorney, Manager, and Clerk recommend approval.

**MODEL MOTION:** To adopt proposed *Policy Requiring Scio Township Boards, Committees, and Commissions to Follow the Requirements of the Open Meetings Act Regardless of Whether Required by Law* [as proposed/as amended].

**ATTACHMENTS:**

[Proposed Policy for OMA Requirements for Committees.pdf](#)

[Open Meetings Act.pdf](#)

[Attorney General's OMA Handbook.pdf](#)

