

Municipal Act, 2001

S.O. 2001, CHAPTER 25

Investigation

239.1 A person may request that an investigation of whether a municipality or local board has complied with section 239 or a procedure by-law under subsection 238 (2) in respect of a meeting or part of a meeting that was closed to the public be undertaken,

- (a) by an investigator referred to in subsection 239.2 (1); or
- (b) by the Ombudsman appointed under the *Ombudsman Act*, if the municipality has not appointed an investigator referred to in subsection 239.2 (1). 2006, c. 32, Sched. A, s. 104.

Investigator

239.2 (1) Without limiting sections 9, 10 and 11, those sections authorize the municipality to appoint an investigator who has the function to investigate in an independent manner, on a complaint made to him or her by any person, whether the municipality or a local board has complied with section 239 or a procedure by-law under subsection 238 (2) in respect of a meeting or part of a meeting that was closed to the public, and to report on the investigation. 2006, c. 32, Sched. A, s. 104.

Powers and duties

(2) Subject to this section, in carrying out his or her functions under subsection (1), the investigator may exercise such powers and shall perform such duties as may be assigned to him or her by the municipality. 2006, c. 32, Sched. A, s. 104.

Matters to which municipality is to have regard

(3) In appointing an investigator and in assigning powers and duties to him or her, the municipality shall have regard to, among other matters, the importance of the matters listed in subsection (5). 2006, c. 32, Sched. A, s. 104.

Same, investigator

(4) In carrying out his or her functions under subsection (1), the investigator shall have regard to, among other matters, the importance of the matters listed in subsection (5). 2006, c. 32, Sched. A, s. 104.

Same

- (5)** The matters referred to in subsections (3) and (4) are,
- (a) the investigator's independence and impartiality;
 - (b) confidentiality with respect to the investigator's activities; and

(c) the credibility of the investigator's investigative process. 2006, c. 32, Sched. A, s. 104.

Delegation

(6) An investigator may delegate in writing to any person, other than a member of council, any of the investigator's powers and duties under this Part. 2006, c. 32, Sched. A, s. 104.

Same

(7) An investigator may continue to exercise the delegated powers and duties, despite the delegation. 2006, c. 32, Sched. A, s. 104.

Status

(8) An investigator is not required to be a municipal employee. 2006, c. 32, Sched. A, s. 104.

Application

(9) Subsection 223.13 (6) and sections 223.14 to 223.18 apply with necessary modifications with respect to the exercise of functions described in this section. 2006, c. 32, Sched. A, s. 104.

Report and recommendations

(10) If, after making an investigation, the investigator is of the opinion that the meeting or part of the meeting that was the subject-matter of the investigation appears to have been closed to the public contrary to section 239 or to a procedure by-law under subsection 238 (2), the investigator shall report his or her opinion and the reasons for it to the municipality or local board, as the case may be, and may make such recommendations as he or she thinks fit. 2006, c. 32, Sched. A, s. 104.

Publication of reports

(11) The municipality or local board shall ensure that reports received under subsection (10) by the municipality or local board, as the case may be, are made available to the public. 2006, c. 32, Sched. A, s. 104.

Calling of meetings

240. Subject to the procedure by-law passed under section 238,

- (a) the head of council may at any time call a special meeting; and
- (b) upon receipt of a petition of the majority of the members of council, the clerk shall call a special meeting for the purpose and at the time mentioned in the petition. 2001, c. 25, s. 240.

Head of council

241. (1) The head of council, except where otherwise provided, shall preside at all meetings of the council. 2001, c. 25, s. 241 (1).

Power to expel

[\(2\)](#) The head of council or other presiding officer may expel any person for improper conduct at a meeting. 2001, c. 25, s. 241 (2).

Absence of head

[242.](#) A municipality may, by by-law or resolution, appoint a member of the council to act in the place of the head of council or other member of council designated to preside at meetings in the municipality's procedure by-law when the head of council or designated member is absent or refuses to act or the office is vacant, and while so acting such member has all the powers and duties of the head of council or designated member, as the case may be. 2006, c. 32, Sched. A, s. 105.

Voting

[243.](#) Except as otherwise provided, every member of a council shall have one vote. 2001, c. 25, s. 243.

Open voting

[244.](#) Except as provided in sections 233 and 238, no vote shall be taken by ballot or by any other method of secret voting, and every vote so taken is of no effect. 2001, c. 25, s. 244; 2006, c. 32, Sched. A, s. 106.

Tie votes

[245.](#) Any question on which there is a tie vote shall be deemed to be lost, except where otherwise provided by any Act. 2001, c. 25, s. 245.

Recorded vote

[246. \(1\)](#) If a member present at a meeting at the time of a vote requests immediately before or after the taking of the vote that the vote be recorded, each member present, except a member who is disqualified from voting by any Act, shall announce his or her vote openly and the clerk shall record each vote. 2001, c. 25, s. 246 (1).

Failure to vote

[\(2\)](#) A failure to vote under subsection (1) by a member who is present at the meeting at the time of the vote and who is qualified to vote shall be deemed to be a negative vote. 2001, c. 25, s. 246 (2).