

STAFF REPORT: Administration



REPORT TO: Council
MEETING DATE: October 10, 2007
REPORT NO.: A.07.27
SUBJECT: Closed Meeting Investigator
PREPARED BY: Stephen Keast, Clerk

A. Recommendations

THAT Council receive Staff Report A.07.27, "Closed Meeting Investigator";

AND THAT WHEREAS Section 239.2 of the *Municipal Act, 2001* provides municipalities with the ability to appoint an investigator who has the function of investigating complaints received regarding compliance with provisions of the Act with respect to a meeting or part of a meeting that was closed to the public;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Town of The Blue Mountains hereby agrees to enter into an agreement with the Local Authority Services (LAS) branch of the Association of Municipalities of Ontario for the appointment of the firm of Amberley Gavel (Bellchamber and Dean) as an investigator as it relates to Section 239.2 of the Act;

AND THAT a by-law be prepared to authorize this agreement;

AND FURTHER THAT the Mayor and Clerk are hereby authorized to sign all necessary documents to execute the agreement to appoint an investigator with LAS.

B. Background

Following revisions to the *Municipal Act, 2001*, Council now has option of appointment of a Closed Meeting Investigator who would respond to a complaint from any person, as to the validity of Council or a Committee of Local Board entering into a closed session. If an Investigator is not appointed, the role falls to the Provincial Ombudsman by default.

As the attached Grey County Report determines, the option of utilizing the Association of Municipalities investigator program offered through their Local Authority Services branch is considered most attractive given the implementation timing, fairness, lack of bias and accessibility.

C. The Blue Mountains' Strategic Plan

Goal Providing a strong, well managed municipal government.

Actions Practice open and proactive communications.

D. Budget Impact

Annual retainer fee of \$300.00

If required, per day investigator fee of \$1,250.00

E. Attached

County of Grey Committee Report CCR-FP-66-07

Respectfully submitted,
