

Library and Police Board Governance Parameters

The Library Board

The Library Board is established pursuant to section 13 of *The Public Libraries Act, 1996* (the “PLA”). The governance structure and parameters of the Library Board’s authority are prescribed in the PLA. In accordance with the PLA, the Library Board shall consist of the Mayor and either six or eight resident electors, one of which may be a member of City Council, as determined by Council. Two year staggered terms are prescribed.

As per the legislation, the Library Board is to elect a chair at its annual meeting to serve a one year term. The library director, appointed by the Library Board, shall be the Library Board secretary, present for all meetings of the Library Board and its committees. The PLA requires the library director to have a degree in library or information sciences from a university accredited by the American Library Association. The appointment of other librarians, officers, technicians, etc. may be made by the Library Board on the recommendation of the library director.

The frequency of meetings, quorum requirements and process for calling special meetings are all prescribed in the legislation, as are the powers of the Library Board. The Library Board’s obligations in respect of the passage of bylaws, budgets, audits and financial and record keeping are all similarly provided for in the PLA.

To complement the PLA, the Library Board approved, in 2016, *The Saskatoon Public Library Board Bylaw*. The Library Board Bylaw specifically identifies the legislative requirements and supplements the prescribed rules.

The Police Board

As a municipality with a population of more than 5,000, *The Police Act, 1990* (the “PA”) requires the City to establish a board of police commissioners, by bylaw. *The Saskatoon Board of Police Commissioners Bylaw No. 7531* was passed on February 5, 1996. The PA provides direction as to the contents of the Bylaw but leaves some of the specifics to City Council’s direction. For example, the PA requires that at least three members sit on the Police Board, but contemplates the possibility of more members at large without specifying a maximum. Currently, the Police Board shall consist of seven members. The PA prescribes that one member is the Mayor. Depending on the number of members at large, the appointment of one or two members of Council shall sit in addition to the Mayor. Given the size of the current Police Board, two members of Council in addition to the Mayor are appointed. Similarly, terms of appointment and reappointment, and provisions in respect of the process where members are unable to act are as established by Council in the Bylaw. Budget estimates are to be submitted to City Council in accordance with the process as provided in the Bylaw. Legislative requirements in respect of the Police Board include that:

- the Police Board shall appoint a chair and vice-chair;
- quorum of a three member Board is two, and three where the Board membership is larger than three; and
- the Police Board may make directives and set general policy for governance and the administration of the police service, so long as it is not inconsistent with the PA or Regulations.

These legislative requirements are similarly provided for in the Bylaw. Similar to the Library Board, however, the Police Board approved a Governance Policy (March 19, 2009).