

MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF RICHMOND

PUBLIC HEARING

NOVEMBER 12, 2002

Location: Court House, Arichat

Deputy Warden McNamara called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

The Clerk took roll call of Councillors.

Deputy Warden McNamara indicated that Warden Johnson was unable to attend tonight's meeting because of illness.

Receipt of Oral or Written Submissions Regarding By-Law #55, Non-Smoking By-Law

The Clerk indicated that there was one written submission received before noon today from St. Anne Community & Nursing Care Centre, which indicates that only residents are permitted to smoke in the designated smoking room at the St. Anne's Community & Nursing Care Centre.

The Clerk indicated that St. Anne Community & Nursing Care Centre is requesting exemption of nursing homes from the Municipal By-Law because of their unique circumstance of being considered a resident's home.

Mrs. Treka Burke, Coordinator at the Dr. Kingston Memorial Clinic presented letters of support from Dr. Paul Pluta and Dr. Romeo Tan as well as a letter from herself, supporting a 100% smoke free by-law for Richmond County.

Ms. Andrea Donovan presented on behalf of Public Health and the Guysborough Antigonish Strait Health Authority.

Ms. Donovan congratulated Richmond County Council for their strong initiative, noting that a 100% ban protects everyone and has a role to play in discouraging smoking in youths and encouraging smokers to quit.

Ms. Donovan indicated that the initiative of the Non-Smoking By-Law will display to the Province that this is what Municipalities want and may reflect upon future provincial legislation, as well as setting an example for other municipalities as well as families.

In response to a question from Ms. Donovan, the Solicitor indicated that the Municipality does not have the authority to regulate smoking in taxis, noting that this is regulated under provincial law, and that the By-Law put forward by the Municipality has gone as far as the Municipal Act permits.

The Solicitor indicated that effective January 2003, the Province will be enforcing Bill 125 that will regulate smoking in taxis.

Ms. Donovan also noted that extra effort must be taken with nursing homes, to ensure that employees are protected from second hand smoke and that designated smoking areas meet air quality guidelines.

Mr. Kevin MacDonald, CEO of the District Health Authority, commended Municipal Council for their efforts in initiating a 100% smoking ban in Richmond County.

Mr. MacDonald noted that 9% of the Health Authority's budget goes to dealing with illnesses related to smoking and that 30% of non smokers are exposed to second hand smoke each month.

Moved by Councillor Cotton, seconded by Councillor MacPhee that the Public Hearing be adjourned. Motion carried.

There being no further business, Deputy Warden McNamara adjourned the Public Hearing at 6:50 p.m.