

**PUBLIC HEARING**  
**MUNICIPALITY OF THE COUNTY OF RICHMOND**  
**DISTRICT BOUNDARY REVIEW**  
**NOVEMBER 15, 2006**

Location: Grand Anse Fire Hall

Warden Boudreau called the public hearing to order at 7:00 p.m.

Warden Boudreau indicated that the UARB has requested that the Municipality examine their municipal boundaries and the purpose of this public hearing is to address the district boundaries of Richmond County, noting that a hand out has been provided outlining the statistics and issues for discussion.

Warden Boudreau indicated that this hearing will be accepting arguments regarding the number of Councillor's, the size of the districts and the current system of electing a Warden from the Council and by the Council or a Mayor elected by the voters.

Warden Boudreau indicated that a table outlining the variances within the districts has been provided, noting that boundary guidelines stipulate that the variance can be no more than 10-15% and that these variances must be brought in line and the only way is to re-construct the districts.

Warden Boudreau requested that each person introduce themselves. The following is a list of the public that attended the meeting:

Mr. Harry Lelacheur	District #6
Mrs. Annabel Lelacheur	District #6
Rev. Jim Regan	District #5
Mr. Bob Proctor	District #5
Mrs. Rosemary Burns	District #7
Mr. Lester Morgan	District #5
Mrs. Vicky Jensen	District #5
Mr. Robert Lelacheur	District #6
Mr. Herman Marchand	District #6
Mr. Gordon Lelacheur	District #6

Mr. Lester Morgan indicated that if the current system "is not broke, why fix it", noting that Councillors are working hard for their communities and if Council is content with their size then they should remain.

Mr. Lester Morgan indicated that the Warden is leader of the Council and voted in by Council and he believes that they will work in harmony because of this, however a mayor is elected by the people and there may be some conflict or opposition with the Council, noting “why fix what is not broken?”, expressing that he is in favor of the current system of Warden.

Mr. Lester Morgan indicated that to have a Mayor and an election would also be additional costs.

Rev. Jim Regan indicated that it is hard enough to get people into politics and he favors that the number of Councillors remain the same.

Rev. Jim Regan indicated that he would like expressed to the UARB that he is most happy with the geographic size of the districts with the exception of the issue with District #6 that was brought forward tonight.

Rev. Jin Regan indicated that he is in favor of remaining with a Warden.

Mr. Bob Proctor indicated that he favors the number of Councillors to remain the same, noting that he would hate to see representation decrease, because the current level of representation is quite good.

Mr. Bob Proctor indicated that he had to leave for another meeting but would like to express that he objects to a mayor, noting that he believes that there would be favoritism for the area that they are from.

Mr. Harry Lelacheur indicated that he is in favor of keeping the current number of Councillors.

Mr. Harry Lelacheur indicated that he was told by the Councillor for District #6 that he would be exempt from the sidewalk tax because they have no water and sewer.

Mrs. Rosemary Burns indicated that the districts are the real “grass roots” of the County and she does not believe that things should change and expressed that she is in favor of remaining with the status quo.

Mrs. Rosemary Burns indicated that she is not in favor of having a mayor, noting that there could be animosity between a Council and a Mayor.

Mrs. Burns indicated that Richmond is a unique Municipality indicating that there are communities on interest and they don't wish to separate for the sake of numbers.

Mr. Burns indicated that the numbers for District #8 are inflated because of the institutions that are included in the population.

Mrs. Rosemary Burns submitted a written presentation as well.

Mrs. Vicky Jensen expressed that she felt that there should be no reduction in the number of councillors and that perhaps the reasons given in the previous review some years ago be reviewed.

Mrs. Vicky Jensen indicated that she also had to leave but expressed that she is not in favor of a mayor, indicating that it would probably reduce the number of Councillors.

Mrs. Vicky Jensen noted that in District #5 there are two historical Societies (Point Tupper and Basin-Lower River Societies) and this indicates that there are natural sets of communities of interest.

Mr. Robert Lelacheur indicated that the number of Councillors should remain the same.

Mr. Herman Marchand indicated that there should be no change in the number of Councillors

Mr. Herman Marchand indicated that he received a letter today in the mail from the Council Recorder indicating a motion that was made at the last Council meeting and suggesting that the residents of Lennox Passage in District #6 attend tonight's meeting.

Warden Boudreau indicated that he was not aware of this correspondence and read the letter out loud.

Warden Boudreau indicated that what the letter suggests is that in order to avoid the new sidewalk tax for District #6 that the only option would be to request to be moved to a different district, noting that they are very close to District's #3 and #4 which are low in numbers and this would assist with evening the numbers out, noting that if this is the wish of the residents then they will hear arguments for this.

In response to a question from Mr. Herman Marchand, Warden Boudreau indicated that District #3 does not have sidewalks, water or sewer.

Mr. Herman Marchand indicated that there are about seven houses involved and if they were to be changed to District #3 they would be pleased.

Mr. Herman Marchand indicated that if he thought that he would have been included in this tax he would have attended the initial public meeting that was held to determine community support for the sidewalks and express his opposition.

Mr. Herman Marchand indicated that he is in favor of remaining with the status quo and keeping the current system of Warden.

Mr. Gordon Lelacheur agreed that the number of Councillors should remain at 10.

Mr. Gordon Lelacheur indicated that he is also in favor of keeping the current system of Warden.

Other Comments:

Deputy Warden McNamara indicated that she fought for residents of Kempt Road in District #6 so that they would not have to pay the sidewalk tax and was successful, adding that she hopes to get these residents, at their request, changed into District #5, which Councillor Cotton has agreed is more logical.

Councillor MacPhee wanted to clarify to the public that it is not a decision of Council that can change the boundaries but rather the UARB that will decide based on the arguments presented by the Municipality from these public hearings.

In response to a question from Lester Morgan, Warden Boudreau indicated that he did not think that a petition from the residents was required to make the request to the UARB to have the boundary changed, just that the request be recorded as part of tonight's proceedings which will be taken to Municipal Council and then on to the UARB.

In response to a question from Councillor Boudreau, the residents of Lennox Passage (Herman Marchand, Harry and Annabel Lelacheur, Gordon Lelacheur and Robert Lelacheur) indicated that if their Councillor could get them exempt from the sidewalk tax they would not want the boundary changed.

In response to a question from Mr. Herman Marchand, Warden Boudreau indicated that in order to seek an exemption they would have to approach their Councillor to work on their behalf.

In response to a question from Mrs. Rosemary Burns, Warden Boudreau indicated that whatever is the wish of the residents is what will be argued to the UARB.

There being no further business, Warden Boudreau adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m.