



Municipality of the District of Argyle

Item: Boundary Review – Final Decision

Date: November 17, 2022

VISION

We see Argyle as home to a healthy and thriving rural population. Our municipality promotes and supports economic and social opportunities for the region and engages in the active expression of our unique Acadian heritage. We are a place of choice for rural living and are widely recognized for our warm hospitality and joie de vivre. Surrounded by fresh air and cool ocean breezes, we work and play in the great outdoors. People choose to live in Argyle because of our commitment to each other, to our community, and to our neighbors. Argyle is a place we are proud to call home.

Background:

Section 369 of the Municipal Government Act requires each council to review the number of boundaries of polling districts every 8 years. Part of this process is to engage the public for feedback so Council can make its decision on the boundaries. To remind Council, WSP was hired to take the lead on the first part of public consultation. Social media and the local radios were used to advertise 3 different open houses, however, for whatever reason, they were not well attended. WSP also prepared a survey that was on social media to help determine what the ideal number of councillors are to the public.

Staff was able to determine from the survey that the public would like to see 9 councillors or 7 councillors represent them.

At the September 13, 2022 at the regular council meeting, Council made a motion to recommend that staff present two options to residents for feedback:

1. Stay with 9 Councillors and amend 3 districts boundaries; or
2. Reduce to 7 Councillors and amend most districts boundaries.

After Council advised staff to return to the public with the 2 recommendations, staff decided to take a different approach for public engagement. Staff visited various community groups, listed below to encourage their engagement on the boundary review.

Public Engagement Process:

1. Staff prepared two maps, showing each of the proposed boundary lines, along with video presentations explaining them and posted these resources to the Municipality's Facebook page and Website.
2. Staff prepared a short survey for residents to complete which was also posted on our website and social media page. The survey also had a QR code to assist residents to easily connect to our survey.
3. Staff sent out the survey to our emailing list (over 300 emails)

4. Staff also presented the two options to 9 community groups which is equivalent to meeting with over 150 residents. All residents were asked to fill out a survey, however some declined to participate. Here are the community groups that staff met:
 - a. CAPEB;
 - b. East Pubnico New Horizon Club;
 - c. Argyle New Horizon Club;
 - d. Par-en-Bas Seniors Club ;
 - e. Belleville And Friends Committee ;
 - f. Eel Brook Fire Department ;
 - g. Patch Work Pals ;
 - h. Argyle Fire Fighters Association ;
 - i. Wedgeport Senior Group.
5. On November 15, staff organized another open house for residents to attend either virtually or in-person. The only attendance was from 2 Councillors.

Results of the Survey

Staff had a total of 110 surveys submitted.

- 70% selected to keep 9 Councillors
- 30% Selected to reduce 7 Councillors

Here is the break down of the results per district:

	9 Councilors	7 Councilors
District 1	50%	50%
District 2	71%	29%
District 3	71%	29%
District 4	48%	52%
District 5	76%	24%
District 6	64%	36%
District 7	100%	0%
District 8	86%	14%
District 9	75%	25%

As per the survey results, the majority of residents have indicated that they support 9 councillors with the amendments of 3 districts.

Suggested Motion:

That council recommend to the Utility and Review Board that the Municipality of the District of Argyle continues to have 9 Councilors representing the Municipality with the amendments of the following polling districts:

District - 1 – Communities of East Kempt and Hubbard’s Point would no longer be in this District, replaced with SAR, Rocco Point and Eel Brook.

District - 4 – Community of Hubbard’s Point would be added to the existing communities of Amirault’ s Hill, Sluice Point, and the Islands.

District – 5 – Communities of SAR, Eel Brook and Rocco point eliminated, and replaced with East Kempt

OR

That council recommend to the Utility and Review Board that the Municipality of the District of Argyle chooses 7 Councilors to represent the Municipality with the amendments to boundary lines for the following polling districts:

District -1 – Wedgeport, boundary moved north to the Black Pond Road.

District -2 – Plymouth, Little River, Comeau’s Hill, Little Egypt Road, Tusket, Gavelton.

District -3 – Hubbard’s Point, Amirault’ s Hill, Sluice Point, the Islands, Abrams River.

District -4 – All Belleville’s, Spring Haven, Quinan, SAR, Rocco Point, Eel Brook.

District -5 – All Argyles, East Kempt, increased to include all of Argyle Sound

District -6 – All East Pubnicos, Pubnico Head, West Pubnico (East of Argyle Sound)

District -7 – All of Middle and Lower West Pubnico.