

Organization River Area Council of Governments**Board Executive Board****Date and Time Tuesday, June 18 2002 at 7:00 PM****Place Village of Carthage Municipal Building, 120 S Mechanic St., Carthage NY 13619****Contact [Chris Vargulick](#) Town Clerk Phone (315) 493-3240 Fax(315) 493-2900****Minutes**

TO: Mayors/Supervisors and Boards of the T/Champion, T/Wilna, V/Carthage and V/West Carthage**FROM:** Chris Vargulick, Council Secretary**DATE:** June 19, 2002**RE:** Minutes from June 18, 2002 River Area Council of Governments meeting**Members present:** M. Bezanilla, T. Buckley, W. McIlroy, M. Sligar, J. Smith, P. Smith, and T. Stewart**Members excused:** M. Franchini

Chairman McIlroy called the meeting to order at 7:07PM at the Village of Carthage Municipal Building.

Motion by T. Buckley, seconded by T. Stewart to approve the minutes for May 21, 2002, as presented. Ayes-7, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Reports

The Board reviewed the Circuit Rider's monthly report.

Ms. Amyot reported that submissions to complete the requirements for a draw down of the CDBG had been delayed by the efforts to deal with the effects of the fire. The SEQR needs to be completed and acted upon by the Village of Carthage, as lead agency. Draw downs may begin after satisfying the fourteen day waiting period following publication of a notice of negative impact.

Peter j. smith & co. have submitted the final report of the retail development plan and strategy. A final financial statement and report will be submitted for final reimbursement from the Quality Communities Grant.

T. Stewart distributed the recommendation from the recreation committee relative to a municipal swimming pool facility. The establishment of a partnership with the Carthage School District, to construct and operate an indoor swimming pool and/or public recreation facility, was recommended. Mr. Stewart shared pictures taken at other facilities including: Cato-Meridian, Red Creek, Fort Drum and Clayton. A list of prioritized recreational facilities and/or opportunities was also distributed. M. Sligar voiced concerns about children traveling between the Villages and the high school on NYS Route 26. T. Buckley and W. McIlroy suggested that the concerns may be addressed by bussing and/or establishing a bike trail. Motion by T. Buckley, seconded by M. Sligar to discuss the information with the component boards for a recommendation to RACOG and to open discussions with the school district, if approved. Ayes-7, Nays-0. Motion carried. Council members expressed their thanks and appreciation to Mr. Stewart for the efforts of the recreation committee.

Old Business

- W. McIlroy reported that it is his understanding that the PILOT agreement with the Mohawk, Adirondack, & Northern Railroad has been approved by all of the stakeholders and contains a provision giving the Village of Carthage an option to request the deed, within the term of the PILOT, for the railroad depot. The Village of Carthage shall discuss the Village's interest in taking ownership of the depot or a "partnership" with the RACOG communities.
- W. McIlroy distributed correspondence from Joe Starosciak discussing the bulk purchase of natural gas and from John F. Black, counsel for the Cable Television & Telecommunications Association of New York, Inc. relative to Section 626 of the NYS Real Property Tax Law. Karen Delmonico, Watertown Chamber of Commerce, will make a presentation at the July RACOG meeting concerning energy purchases through Energy Alliance. T. Buckley pointed out that the decision from the counsel for cable association determined that based on case law, that a waiver of the 626 credit is a negotiable item.

New Business

- Representatives from the Village of Sackets Harbor were unable to attend and sent their regrets. The presentation to discuss revitalization will be rescheduled at a later date.
- K. Amyot distributed copies of a solicitation for grant applications for technical assistance in traffic engineering and transportation planning for localities. This 80/20 matching, reimbursement program is being offered to advance coordinated land use and transportation planning and could be utilized to address issues

relative to revitalization and growth throughout the RACOG region. As an identified Quality Communities Pilot program and inter-municipal partnership, particular emphasis would be placed on a RACOG application. The grant deadline is July 31, 2002. Motion by M. Sligar, seconded by M. Bezanilla to authorize staff from the Tug Hill Commission to begin preparation of the NYS DOT grant application for technical assistance in traffic engineering and transportation planning for localities and furthermore, to discuss and seek approval of the application and authorization, for the Town of Champion to act as lead agency/fiscal agent of the grant, from the component boards. Ayes-7, Nays-0. Motion carried.

- M. Sligar offered, for the consideration of the Council, a resolution to form a RACOG sub-committee to identify and study regional issues and to formulate an appropriate response to the potential development of a retail mega-store within the RACOG community. J. Smith suggested presenting the resolution to the component boards prior to RACOG action. P. Smith stated that a proactive approach to growth and development with a wide range of views could be a very positive exercise. Motion by M. Sligar, seconded by W. McIlroy to adopt the resolution. M. Bezanilla-aye, T. Buckley-aye, W. McIlroy-aye, M. Sligar-aye, J. Smith-aye, P. Smith-aye, and T. Stewart-aye. Resolution adopted. The Council discussed committee membership including representatives from, but not limited to, members of municipal boards not serving on the RACOG executive committee, Carthage Area Chamber of Commerce, NYS DOT, and a planning group (ie. Tug Hill Commission). Possible topics for discussion may include impacted communities and businesses, aesthetics, marketing, housing, and security. The Council requested that component boards discuss committee membership and submit appointees to serve as municipal representatives.

Motion by T. Stewart, seconded by P. Smith to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 8:25PM.

The next meeting of the River Area Council of Governments will be held on Tuesday, July 16, 2002 at 7:00PM at the Village of Carthage Municipal Building.

Christina Vargulick

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RACOG Secretary