

Organization River Area Council of Governments

Board Executive Board

Date and Time Tuesday, June 21 2011 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

**River Area Council of Governments
June 21, 2011**

Members present: T. Buckley, S. Burto, M. Franchini, W. McIlroy, P. Smith and R. Vary

Absent: J. Peck, and R. Peluso

Others: K. Amyot

Chairman McIlroy called the regular monthly meeting to order at 7:00pm. The meeting was opened for public comment. No one from the public spoke.

Motion by M. Franchini, seconded by R. Vary to approve the minutes for April 12, 2011 as presented. Ayes-6, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Motion by S. Burto, seconded by T. Buckley to approve the June treasurer's report as presented. Ayes-6, Nays-0. Motion carried.

K. Amyot distributed and reviewed her monthly report and an email regarding an issue with Mohawk, Adirondack, and Northern Railroad.

Old Business

S. Burto updated members on the schedule for the Twin Village Swimming Pool. The pool will open on Tuesday, July 5, 2011. The hours of operation are as follows:

Mon-Fri....12pm-8pm (closed from 5-6pm for dinner)
Sat.....1-8pm (closed from 5-6pm for dinner)
Sun.....1-5pm

Interviews have been completed to fill the positions of director and lifeguards and the NYSDOH Beach Plan has been submitted. Site work has been done in preparation for the opening. W. McIlroy requested that the line of site from the road to the swimming area be improved. S. Burto confirmed that a "sign-in" procedure will be in place. Motion by S. Burto, seconded by T. Buckley to approve the pool budget as presented and to authorize the V/West Carthage to hire a director and six lifeguards for the season. Ayes-6, Nays-0. Motion carried.

New Business

Board members discussed a letter from JCIDA dated June 15, 2011 regarding the expiration of a lease/PILOT agreement with Mohawk, Adirondack and Northern Railroad. The five-year agreement expired on December 31, 2006. The JCIDA has forwarded a proposed extension of the original agreement with the exception of amending the expiration date to December 31, 2032. T. Buckley and other Council members expressed the following concerns with the proposed agreement:

- 1) Failure to renew the lease/PILOT in accordance with the agreement
- 2) Failure to fulfill the conditions of the lease/PILOT as agreed to
- 3) Defaulting on \$92,386.57 in PILOT payments plus applicable penalties
- 4) The length of the term of the proposed agreement
- 5) The condition of the crossings
- 6) The failure of the agreement to amend the taxable status of the railroad

W. McIlroy questioned the impact on local businesses (Slack Chemical and Climax) if the agreement is not approved. He explained that the CSX rail lines end at the Village limits. Members discussed the number of deliveries received by both businesses and capital investments they have made in their portion of the tracks.

S. Burto and T. Buckley suggested that since JCIDA holds the title to the Mohawk, Adirondack, and Northern Railroad rail lines that it exercise its ownership rights and take the lines. The lines within the Villages could either then be sold or leased to CSX rail so that businesses could continue to be served and the remainder of the line be

given to the County trail system to enhance recreational and economic opportunities. And, furthermore, that the lines be subject to taxation where applicable.

W. McIlroy will contact Don Alexander (CEO, JCIDA) to schedule a meeting for Council members, and the other interested parties, to discuss their concerns and to inform JCIDA that the parties are not prepared to sign the agreement.

S. Burto reported that grants are available for the development of community gardens and recreational facilities that have an educational aspect. He will forward the information to the T/Wilna to consider for the Natural Bridge ball field.

Motion by P. Smith, seconded by S. Burto to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.

Christina Vargulick
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RACOG Secretary/Treasurer