

Organization River Area Council of Governments

Board Executive Board

Date and Time Tuesday, May 15 2012 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
May 15, 2012**

Members present: M. Bigness, T. Buckley, M. Franchini, W. McIlroy, P. Smith, and H. Watkins (7:09)

Absent: S. Burto and R. Vary

Others: Phil Smith

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

Motion by P. Smith, seconded by T. Buckley to approve the minutes for February 16, 2012 as presented. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Motion by P. Smith, seconded by M. Franchini to approve the May treasurer's report as presented. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Members reviewed the written report submitted by K. Amyot, Circuit Rider. P. Smith added that the T/Wilna shall be taking ownership of the Crown Cleaners site.

New Business

Phil Smith, Tug Hill Commission, presented a resolution to the NYS Mandate Relief Council for low volume roads legislation. Mr. Smith discussed road classifications and descriptions including low volume, qualified abandoned, and seasonal roads. H. Watkins questioned the advantage of the low volume classification. Mr. Smith stated that if a Town decides to designate a road low volume, then the Town will not be required to plow the road regardless of whether a residence or business is built on the road. Resolution offered by P. Smith, seconded by T. Buckley:

WHEREAS, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo has established the Mandate Relief Council to review mandates on local governments required or imposed by a state law or state agency that requires a higher level of service for an existing local government program, project or activity; and

WHEREAS, local governments are required to maintain public highways in accordance to regulations or standards adopted by the NYS Department of Transportation; and

WHEREAS, the 1986 Local Roads Classification Task Force was charged with developing alternative guidelines for classifying and maintaining low volume roads in rural areas and since 1989 there have been guidelines and standards for the classification and maintenance of low volume roads in rural areas, but which have never been authorized under state legislation; and

WHEREAS, the River Area Council of Governments, which includes the towns of Champion and Wilna, has about 43 centerline miles of roads which could be classified and managed as low volume roads and about 35% of the member town budgets are devoted annually to highway maintenance; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's Mandate Relief Commission in 2011 called for legislation codifying in New York State Law the provisions for rural towns to manage public highways as low volume roads; and

WHEREAS, Senate Bill S.3641A and Assembly Bill A.6325 are the latest attempt to codify low volume roads legislation in New York State Law and their enactment would result in significant fiscal relief for rural town budgets, clearly authorize towns to manage their roads in a manner consistent with their use, and help to direct and manage growth in rural areas consistent with Smart Growth principals;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the River Area Council of Governments urges the NYS Mandate Relief Council to work with the State Legislature and Governor on the passage and enactment of low volume roads legislation that would eliminate a mandate on rural towns and save tax payers significant costs; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolutions shall be sent to the NYS Mandate Relief Council, NYS Senator Ritchie and NYS Assemblyman Blankenbush.

Ayes-6, Nays-0. Resolution adopted.

No information was available regarding the 2012 Open Swim program at the Twin Village Pool because S. Burto was absent from the meeting. Motion by M. Bigness, seconded by H. Watkins to authorize the Treasurer to pay bills related to the 2012 swim program. Ayes-6, Nays-0. Motion carried.

Motion by T. Buckley, seconded by P. Smith to go into executive session to discuss the employment of a particular person. Ayes-5, Nays-0. Motion carried. Executive session began at 7:30pm.

Motion by P. Smith, seconded by M. Franchini to return to open session. Ayes-6, Nays-0. Motion carried. Open session resumed at 7:48pm.

Motion by T. Buckley, seconded by M. Bigness to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 7:50pm.

Christina Vargulick
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RACOG Secretary/Treasurer