

WAUPACA COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION

January 15, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 12:00 p.m. by Patrol Captain Todd Rasmussen. The meeting location was Hotel Fremont, Fremont, Wisconsin.

Members Present: Patrol Captain Todd Rasmussen, Highway Department Representative Lance Penney, State DOT Representative Tony Kemnitz, Area DOT Program Manager Bob Bott, Emergency Management Director Andy Carlin, Medical Representative Dr. Jerry Salan, County Board Chairman Dick Koeppen, State Patrol Sgt. Carrie Johnson, State Patrol Trooper Kendi Linjer (and her trainee, Trooper Dan Restrepo), Population Representative Bob Flease, New London Police Chief Jeff Schlueter and DOT Law Enforcement Liaison Bill Gau.

Patrol Captain Rasmussen read the open meeting statement.

Motion by Dick Koeppen, seconded by Bob Flease to approve the amended minutes of the previous meeting. Motion carried without a negative vote.

Motion by Andy Carlin, seconded by Tony Kemnitz to approve the agenda. Motion carried without a negative vote.

Public Input - None

Patrol Captain Rasmussen - See attached Traffic Report. Distributed maps of crashes documented per township for 2014. Maps with crashes will be e-mailed with future agendas and minutes for review before the meeting. Waupaca County had a total of 2 fatalities in 2014. Unfortunately, there was a fatal crash on Hwy 10 at Hwy 49 during the past week.

Dr. Salan – Nothing

Bob Flease - Nothing

Dick Koeppen – 2014 was a very good year financially for Waupaca County. He thanked department heads for keeping their budgets in line. Sales tax generated in 2014 was 15% higher than projected, which means people were spending money.

Tony Kemnitz – Follow-up on speed zone on Rural Road. There were some discrepancies on the speed zone markings. Tony noted a 25 mph zone had a missing sign when he drove the area. Tony contacted Town Chairman Chris Klein and he said the sign would be taken care of.

Hwy 10 Cross Median Crash Protection. Two locations on Hwy 10 were brought forward, one being around the City of Waupaca, from Erickson Road out to Hwy 22/54. That application will be submitted in February. A letter of support from the Highway Commission was included,

which is helpful. Another application for cable barrier to be installed from the Waupaca east bypass out to Reek Road.

Hwy 10/Vaughan Road – plans are at 90% with construction on schedule for spring/summer 2015. The project will install an intersection advance warning system on Hwy 10 ahead of the Vaughan Road intersection. This will be the first such device installed in the State and is considered a “pilot” project. It will provide a set of flashing beacons on the top of a large warning sign that will caution drivers on Hwy 10. This came as a result of a fatal crash at that intersection due to fog.

Hwy 45/15 signal upgrade ranks as the #1 crash location in our region. There is work-in-progress to retime the light and adjust the phasing, especially a left turns. These will now only be allowed with an arrow.

On Hwy 49 in Iola, the beacon was removed and the speed zone has been extended to the top of the hill from Meadow Road.

There are a couple of projects going on for Hwy 45. Crashes are being pulled for along Hwy 45 from Clintonville, south to Hwy 96 as part of a comprehensive safety study. DOT is currently working with Lance, from the Highway Department, regarding some shoulder work in this area. The shoulders along Hwy 45 are targeted to be paved the normal three feet with gravel at this time, however, DOT is investigating the possibility of 5-foot wide shoulders with rumble strips if the crashes warrant it.

Hwy 22/CTY Y had concerns about a southbound right turn by semis that sometimes crunch over on top of cars. This was reviewed and two crashes were found. Tony is working with a Pavement Marking Engineer to looking at some possible marking changes for the intersection

Lance added a short term solution to the shoulder drop off has been rectified for now, however, is an on-going situation.

Bob Bott – handouts were distributed. The first handout was a press release about the 2014 fatalities and how they're fewer than 500 for the first time since 1943. The Bureau of Transportation is looking into an increase of fines for not wearing a seatbelt, from \$10.00 to \$25.00. Wisconsin is the lowest for compliance in the Great Lakes Region. 15% of the motorists in Wisconsin do not wear their seatbelts. January's State Law of the Month is Move over Law: Drivers must provide a safety zone for stopped law enforcement and other emergency vehicles. February's is Driving too fast for conditions causes many wintertime crashes and March's is Motorcycle riders are required to have a motorcycle license. A large amount of motorcycle accidents involve a driver who is not licensed to drive a motorcycle. The agenda for the Wisconsin Highway Safety Coordinator's Association was distributed. This conference is January 20 and January 21 in Wisconsin Rapids.

Bob asked if there was someone that could bring a screen to future meeting and he could then show crashes that are occurring. A satellite or street view would be available for any intersections that may be in question. Andy Carlin offered to provide a screen at future meetings.

Bob said that Waupaca County is the only county in the state that has a cell phone ordinance when driving. Waupaca County has received a grant from the DOT for enforcement of this ordinance. Signage would be very advantageous. Chief Schlueter said it was his understanding that someone cannot be stopped for simply talking on the phone. There needs to be some traffic violation observed for a stop.

Lance Penney – Commented on a couple of items from Tony’s report. Viewed plan for Hwy 45 this morning and wondered if they would be able to fit in the entire paved shoulder. The highway department has also been asked to view some of the turn-off lanes at the intersections.

Bill Gau – Presented a plaque to New London Chief Jeff Schlueter for his department participating in the Drive Sober Campaign over Labor Day weekend and thanked his department for being involved.

Bob Flease – Nothing

Sgt. Johnson – Nothing

State Patrol Trooper Kendi Linjer – Nothing

Andy Carlin - Nothing

The next quarterly meeting will be held on Thursday, April 16, 2015 at 12 noon.

Motion by Bob Flease to adjourn, seconded by Dr. Salan at 12:38 p.m. Motion carried.

Vickie Thoe, Secretary