

WAUPACA COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION

OCTOBER 15, 2015

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am by Patrol Captain Todd Rasmussen. The meeting was held at the Waupaca County Courthouse, Room #1037.

Members Present: Patrol Captain Todd Rasmussen, State Patrol Trooper Kendi Linjer, Highway Commissioner Dean Steingraber, State DOT Representative Tony Kemnitz, Population Representative Bob Flease, Mukwa Town Supervisor Lee Shaw, Drivers Education Representative Larry Schlueter and Law Enforcement Committee Representative Bill Jonely. Also present was Becky Rickel from a local driving school.

Patrol Captain Rasmussen read the open meeting statement.

Motion by Bob Flease, seconded by Larry Schlueter to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Motion carried without a negative vote.

Motion by Bill Jonely, seconded by Lee Shaw to approve the agenda. Motion carried without a negative vote.

Public Input – None

Bob Botts – Demonstrated Community Mapping. Agencies need to map their accident reports. The DOT provided the hardware. In 2017 Tracs will populate the maps and agencies will no longer need to do this. Waupaca has two existing grants. One is an OWI grant and the other is for distracted drivers. Wisconsin State Patrol Laws of the Month was distributed for October, November and December. A handout regarding Bills of Interest to the Wisconsin Traffic Safety Community was given to committee members.

Tony Kemnitz- Updates on Vaughan Rd/Hwy 10- the warning system is in place. There are a few “bugs” which are being worked on. Hwy 22 in Clintonville project is on-going. Hwy 49 speed study in Iola was approved and speed changes are scheduled to be made. Hwy 54/Walgreens in New London – work is in progress to better alert drivers westbound of the lane merge. Handed out a new brochure “Setting Appropriate Speed Limits on Wisconsin’s State Highways”. The goal is to set rationale speed limits. A traffic and engineering study needs to be done to attempt to change a speed zone.

Patrol Captain Rasmussen - Traffic report on file. Dean Steingraber mentioned the risk to highway workers while working on construction projects. Captain Rasmussen told Dean that if he had a week’s notice, he would post for overtime to have an officer at a construction site if workers are going to be there more than four hours.

Larry Schlueter - Brought up the lack of visibility at times when crops are planted too close to the roadway. One example was CTY W and Manske Road. Dean advised that the right-of-way should be clear and crops should be planted to work around those areas. Dean asked Larry or anyone else that

may see this to contact the Highway Department. Larry advised that he would be retiring from the Waupaca County Traffic Safety Committee. Captain Rasmussen thanked Larry for his 42 years of service on the committee.

Bob Flease – Nothing

Bill Jonely – Nothing

Dean Steingraber – IOH – How are we going to handle this? Dean would like to talk with Sheriff Hardel and Captain Rasmussen on how the county will enforce this. The rural mowing policy of the DOT needs to be looked at. The state policy now says that ditches can only be mowed once a year, but this allows the grass to grow too high for good visibility. Dean feels the mowing needs to be done twice a year. Tony suggested that Dean forward a letter on County Highway letterhead to the DOT with his concerns regarding mowing policy. This will be allow DOT to respond formally to his concerns. Tony also reminded the committee that it is allowed by Statute to be an advocate for those issues which it feels impact safety on its highways.

Lee Shaw – Asked about the 70 mph speed limit and if it has effected accidents and/or fatalities. There have been no statistics yet. Trooper Linjer said that the 70 mph speeds are continuing onto 65 mph highways. Tony said Phase 2 of the increase of speeds from 65 to 70 mph, will include Hwy 10 coming out of Winnebago County to Fremont. This segment of Hwy 10 will be increased to 70 mph as will I-39 in Portage County to Hwy 13/34 in Portage County. Dean Steingraber made a motion, seconded by Bob Flease that our Committee send a letter to the DOT opposed to increasing the speed limits from Stevens Point to Menasha because of the design flaws on Hwy 10 and sending a copy of this letter to Winnebago and Portage County Traffic Safety Committees. A copy of the letter should also be sent to our state representatives. The motion carried with Bob Botts and Tony Kemnitz abstaining.

Trooper Linjer- Thanked Dean Steingraber for his concern about the summer mowing as radar won't work when the grass and/or weeds are too high. Trooper Linjer has been approached by a citizen about the lack of street lights or possibly a sidewalk being installed on King Road. This area is very dark and heavily travelled with tourists, especially in the summer. Dean said this concern needed to be addressed by the Town of Farmington. A motion was made by Kendi Linjer, seconded by Dean Steingraber to encourage the Town of Farmington to address this issue. The motion carried with Bob Botts and Tony Kemnitz abstaining.

Other Business - None

Motion by Bob Flease, seconded by Larry Schluetter to adjourn the meeting at 11:31 am. Motion carried.

Vickie Thoe, Secretary