

**COLUMBIA COUNTY
TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**
Columbia County Law Enforcement Center
Basement Training Room
August 11, 2017 @ 9:30 a.m.

Members: Sgt. Todd Horn, Ken Hutler, James Foley, Trace Frost, Robert Andler, Chuck Miller, JoAnn Wingers, Mary Cuperty, Mike Brouette, Chris Hardy, Dan Berg, Penny Kiefer, Marie Darling Ellis, Graham Heitz, Rachael Ellias, Joe Davis, Sr., Kathy Johnson, Jerry Blystone, Avis Link

Guests: Aaron Tigert

Meeting called to order: 9:36 AM by Todd Horn. Introductions were made by all present. An attendance sheet was distributed.

Motion to approve the agenda as posted was made by Wingers and seconded by Foley. Motion was carried unanimously by the committee.

Motion to approve the May 12, 2017 meeting minutes was made by Blystone. Motion was seconded by Andler. Motion was carried unanimously by the committee.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. USH 151 / STH 16/60 Interchange. Discuss stop lights. City of Columbus Administrator Patrick Vander Sanden invited to the meeting. ***Discussion. The traffic counts have not been completed per the DOT. A TIA will be conducted for the improvement project next year. A right turn lane may be warranted, but the traffic volume is not enough to justify signals. Issue will be closed until the project and facility are completed. A new traffic count study may be warranted at that time.***
2. Community Maps. ***The City of Portage along with the Columbia County Sheriff's Office have been entering data. The DOT stated that the State of Wisconsin is interfacing and when crash reports are entered, it will auto fill into the Community Maps. It is in the testing phase at this time. If law enforcement use TLT (GPS Coordinates needed for it to work) when entering their information the info will also auto fill into the Community Maps.***
3. Concerns of lack of 25 mph speed limit signs on Hilltop Road. ***A speed board was placed on Hilltop Road, up from Blackhawk Road. Town of Caledonia to move the 25 mph speed zone sign away from the trees. It was suggested to maybe add 1 or 2 more signs. The cheapest way to fix would be to move the current sign to a more visible area and cut the trees back.***
4. Request for ATV / UTV routes on County Road in the Towns of Marcellon and Fort Winnebago. ***A DNR ATV Route Guideline and Suggestions (A Community Officials' Handbook) was distributed. Two new requests for routes have been received. They include Hwy 51 down to Okee and _____ . There was a discussion regarding many UTV concerns, speed limits, seatbelts, signage on units, lights, clothing, requested routes, and farm usage vs. recreational. County V is a huge concern with the traffic volume it has. It was determined by***

the committee to take all these concerns to the Highway Commission for their thoughts and recommendations by writing a letter. A motion was made by Sgt. Horn and seconded by Hutler to draft a letter to include the following: Traffic Safety Commission is very concerned, enforcement concern, safety concern, public complaints concern, vehicles are not made for road usage, and there is already a variety of equipment on the roads (autos, farm vehicles, Amish buggies, ATV/UTV, all at many different speeds). Motion was carried unanimously by the committee.

5. Speed issues on Military Road near W7180, Marcellon Township. *Discussion. Watched a video of the Military Road area of concern, which is the hill / curve near Thiel Road. Per Chris Hardy, the car count was 350 cars per day between EE and Garrison Road. It was suggested to have the speed board set earlier and extra patrol, cutting trees back, more speed zone signs, make the shoulder wider near the problem hill. Hardy stated that sometimes changing some of these issues may make people drive faster if the area is opened up, causing an opposite effect. There was a motion by Sgt. Horn and seconded by Miller to draft a letter to the Town of Marcellon that due to speed complaints and the construction of the road, from Portage to Highway 22, to erect more speed signs on Military Road at the cost of \$80 per sign, including post and installation by the Columbia County Highway Department.*

DOT reported that there is a vision restriction at County Highway A & State Road 16 (near Doylestown). There are trees in the area. There have been 3 reported crashes in 5 years (2012-2016) and it was suggested to trim the trees.

DOT reported that chevrons could possibly be installed on the off-ramp of I39 to State Highway 16 near Portage.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Discussion on requiring permits for events on county roads (application paperwork, proof of insurance, route maps, etc). *Hardy gets approximately 5 events per year and they do fill out a form. The Sheriff's Office get call on rides, etc. but has no control and may have no resources when they are needed. Blystone suggested that a small group could put a event planning form together and present at the next meeting. Horn and Blystone to work on this.*
2. Create a TSC Identity (design for a logo or heading on official documents). *Davis stated that the TSC information is open to the public. Use social media, press releases, and the web to get the word out. Tell the public who we are and what we do. Put pictures on the web and link to Facebook as well as use Google Docs to produce a free survey page for public safety issues. Horn suggested we create a letterhead with a logo and members listed that we could use for official use.*

Note (attached) from member Penny Kiefer as she had to leave early regarding "Rabbit Lane" Off of Tipperary Road, approximately .7 mile in the Town of Dekorra. Road sign needs replacing (after being stolen twice per the complainant who in on dialysis). There are 3 people (2 homes) that have severe medical issues.

FATAL CRASH REPORT:

Sgt. Horn presented information regarding the two fatal crashes (3 deceased) this last quarter. Speed was an issue in both crashes.

TRANSPORTATION SAFETY REPORT AND HIGHWAY SAFETY INPUT:

DOT reported that the Governor's Conference on Highway Safety is August 22-24, 2017. Sgt. Horn will be attending.

DOT - Wisconsin 2017 Fatalities = 360 fatalities & 330 crashes

OTHER BUSINESS

Hardy reported that the rumble strips on County Highway C are replaced northbound, and will be replaced southbound next week when the seal coat project is completed.

Blystone has a concern that the amount of blacktop being laid will produce more crashes.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Foley at 11:27 a.m. Seconded by Miller. Motion was carried unanimously by the committee.

Next Meeting Date: Friday, November 10, 2017 at 9:30 AM at the Columbia County Law Enforcement Center, 711 E. Cook Street, Portage, WI.

Respectfully submitted,



Kathleen M. Johnson
Columbia County Emergency Management