

**COLUMBIA COUNTY
HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**
Columbia County Law Enforcement Center
John Roche Community Room
May 12, 2017 @ 9:30 a.m.

Members: Sgt. Todd Horn, Richard Hoege, Ryan Mayer, Robert Andler, Chuck Miller, Joe Davis, Chris Hardy, James Foley, Kathy Johnson, Rick Olig, Mary Cupery, JoAnn Wingers, Eugene Brown

Guests: Willie Conklin Jr., Patrick Vander Sanden, Aaron Tigert, Media/Portage Daily Register

Meeting called to order: 9:31 AM by Todd Horn. Introductions were made by all present. An attendance sheet was distributed.

Motion to approve the agenda and to add two items to the agenda, # 6 and #7, was carried by all.

Motion by Hoege to approve the February 10, 2017 meeting minutes. Seconded by Andler. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Update on STH 113/CTH V project by Chris Hardy. ***Chris stated that the project will begin late June, early July, and still no funds available. Ryan Mayer, Wisconsin DOT Traffic, stated that he assessed the area and stated that there is a 35 mph speed sign near the intersection. No further action taken on this item at this time.***
2. Presentation by Joe Davis on contributing factors to crashes off the Anatomy of Traffic Safety document. ***Joe discussed how the grant funding is allocated. They look at statistics for the HVE (High Visibility Enforcement). Columbia County will be receiving a speed grant applied for by Wisconsin Dells Police Department. Each municipality is eligible to apply for a \$4000 through this grant. He stated that thanks to such great work by law enforcement and EMT's, the fatality count was down this quarter. No further action taken on this item.***
3. Update on commission name change from Highway to Traffic Safety Commission. ***Mary Cupery stated that the name change was approved at the Executive Committee Meeting in May and should get final approval at the May County Board Meeting. No further action taken on this item.***

NEW BUSINESS:

1. USH 151 / STH 16/60 Interchange. Discuss stop lights. City of Columbus Administrator Patrick Vander Sanden invited to the meeting. ***Discussion. City of Columbus can make recommendations, but DOT has the final say on the project. Another project is already designed and scheduled for 2021 near Columbus. The ramps have conduit in place for wiring/lights if needed in future projects. Traffic studies are used to determine if traffic lights are needed or not. Vita Plus has plans for a new facility (third in area) west of the travel plaza***

with 80+ semis per day and would support traffic lights on the ramps. The Commission requested the DOT perform a new traffic count study as it will potentially be much different than previous count.

2. Community Maps. Discuss presentation made by Randy Wiessinger at Columbia County Chiefs' meeting on 02/21/17. *Columbia County is trained and entering data to map. The goal is to have all data back to January 1, 2017 entered for reference. Portage Police Department would like to begin entering data soon. The result of the data collection is to be able to review the map and begin seeing where crashes are multiplying. The map of Columbia County's currently entered data was displayed and discussed.*

A guest at the meeting stated that there is an issue of a highway sign that may be blinding the intersection of E, EE, and Military roads. Highway Department to review situation.

3. Concerns of lack of 25 mph speed limit signs on Hilltop Road. *Sgt. Todd Horn showed a video of the area in concern. Discussion. The recommendation was for Chris Hardy to talk to the Town of Caledonia and move the 25 mph sign before the intersection of Blackhawk, Old River, and Hilltop roads, and maybe add one or two additional signs. This item to be added to the next meeting agenda as to the progression.*
4. Request for ATV / UTV routes on County Road in the Towns of Marcellon and Fort Winnebago. (See attached map). *Discussion. Guest, Willie Conklin stated that he is working with Columbia and Green Lake County's on the route project. The commission recommended that Sgt. Horn and Chris Hardy begin with a discussion with Joe Ruf, Columbia County Corporation Counsel, to draft an ordinance to define how Columbia County will control this project.*
5. Speed issues on Military Road near W7180, Marcellon Township. *Discussion. There was a recommendation by Sgt. Horn to fill in shoulders (just to the way the road originally built, not adding to), and maybe place more speed zone signs. Chris Hardy to review situation and statistics. This item to be added to the next meeting agenda.*
6. Penny Kiefer letter regarding State Highway 33 & Carimaunee Court, Portage. *A letter was read by Chuck Miller from Penny Kiefer regarding an issue of cars passing on a double yellow line in the area of State Highway 33 & Carimaunee Court. The recommendation from the commission was to request more enforcement / extra patrol in the area and place a speed board in that area.*
7. Vita Plus new facility near Columbus. *Aaron Tigert discussed the new Vita Plus facility that will be constructed west of Columbus. His reason for attending the meeting was to support traffic lights on the ramps from State Highway 151 to State Highway 16.*

FATAL CRASH REPORT:

Sgt. Horn presented information regarding the one fatal accident for the first quarter 2017.

TRANSPORTATION SAFETY REPORT AND HIGHWAY SAFETY INPUT:

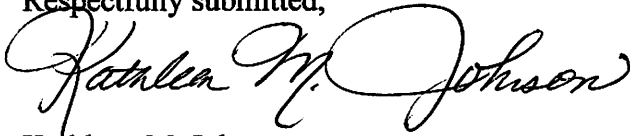
DOT reported that there was one reported crash on State Highway 33 on the curve west of Wendlick Road from 2012 – 2016. No further action taken on this item.

Local & County input is great for the State Highway Safety Plan with meeting to be held Monday, May 15, 2017, Border to Border Awareness Program, and round-a-bouts were discussed by DOT BOTS.

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Hoege at 11:31 a.m. Seconded by Miller. Motion carried.

Next Meeting Date: Friday, August 11, 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

APPROVED