

**COLUMBIA COUNTY HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

Columbia County Law Enforcement Center
John Roche Community Room
May 13, 2011 @ 9:30 a.m.

Members: Doug Jarzynski, Pat Beghin, Tom Knoop, Jeff Berens, Penny Kiefer, Chuck Miller, Jerry Blystone, Avis Link, JoAnn Wingers, Robert Andler, Kirk Konkel, Kurt Dey, Vern Gove, Darrell Parker

Meeting called to order: 9:35 a.m. by Doug Jarzynski.

Motion to approve previous meeting minutes and 05/13/11 agenda made by Knoop. Seconded by Blystone. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS

1. *Update on potential safety issues on STH 33 in the Townships of Scott and Randolph regarding the installation of the WE Energies wind tower farms over the next couple of years.* Mike Stoddard from WE Energies was present to discuss the project and briefed the committee that the construction on the towers would be commencing on 05/23/11, putting up approximately one tower per day, and they would normally be working Monday through Friday, but would use weekends to catch up if they get behind. Stoddard stated there would be extensive heavy equipment in over-sized loads traveling within the project area. Work will continue until the entire project is completed in the fall. Stoddard indicated that there will be three large cranes moving around to the different sites each day and that each of the specific towers come in via semi to their sites and that it takes eight over-sized loads for each tower to be constructed. The project is expected to be completed by the end of December. There will be towers up and producing electricity before the whole project is completed. Stoddard also indicated that they will have security working in the project boundary areas during the construction phase. He also indicated that they would be doing an open house on 06/01/11 for people to see the tower components on the ground and if any traffic problems came up, they would be contacting law enforcement to address the problems.
2. *Update on request for review of the intersection of US 51/16 and CTH P in the Town of Pacific for the potential installation of a stop condition to reduce accidents.* DOT had the crash data information for the location and presented the data. Within a six-year period there were 18 accidents at that location. It was also on the list to do a traffic count and after that traffic count is completed, they will report back to the committee on the information found and any possible action.
3. *Update on request for review of the intersection of STH 23 and CTH O in the Town of Newport for safety improvements.* DOT indicated that they were looking at the possibility of expanding paved shoulders in this area and putting in rumble strips. They will also look at extending the no-passing zone around the corner further and will reporting back at the next committee meeting with what the findings were.
4. *Update on DOT review of intersection of STH 33 / East Albert Street in the City of Portage for possible safety improvements and speed reduction.* DOT indicated that this intersection is on the list for a speed study and a review of the sight-distance issues. The committee will discuss the issue and decided to have the item placed on the agenda again awaiting information from DOT on the study outcomes.

NEW BUSINESS

1. *Request for speed reduction and no passing zone on STH 33 from Wisconsin River Bridge to west intersection of Caledonia Street in the City of Portage.* This item of concern has been placed on a list for a speed study and a review of the no-passing zone. The item will be placed on the August agenda to discuss after completion of the current construction project and the speed study. No other action was taken.
2. *Request for review of the intersection of STH 16 / Boeck Road for possible addition of passing lane for westbound traffic in the City of Portage.* Per DOT, it is not likely to be funded by DOT as it is not a safety concern for them at this time. Dey indicated that this cost for this type of project is usually passed on through to the developer of the industrial area. No further action will be taken on the issue at this time.
3. *Request for review of intersection of STH 60 / USH 51 for safety improvements in the Village of Arlington.* Per DOT, there is a safety study being completed in that area looking for potential safety improvements. DOT may look at the left-turn lane. The study will be coming out in a couple of months and could be looked at for potential improvements at that time. No further action was taken on this item.
4. *Request for review of CTH I in the Village of Arlington for speed-related issues.* Dey indicated that he put the speed check equipment in that area and indicated that there are some areas and times that there are problems with speed, but nothing overly excessive. Dey indicated he would share that with the citizen who had brought the issue up to the committee and the information was also shared with Lieutenant Jarzynski to attempt to pinpoint enforcement in that area. No other action was taken.
5. *Request for review of intersection of Bilkie Road to USH 51 for possible paved shoulder.* Dey indicated that the town had approached him possibly wanting the state to put in a paved turn lane there due to the fact that gravel is continually tossed out into that intersection as people go around that corner. It was apparent that there was no real issue on the state highway part of it, but that the gravel tended to accumulate on Bilkie Road. The committee was informed that DOT would not fund that type of project and it would be up to the town if the town wished to extend a turn lane at that location. No other action was taken on this matter.

FATAL ACCIDENT REPORT by Patrick Beghin

Beghin briefed the commission concerning the two fatalities that occurred in Columbia County since the last meeting.

BUREAU OF TRAFFIC SAFETY (BOTS) UPDATE: Thomas Knoop

Bureau of Traffic Safety then issued their report detailing some of the trends in highway safety as well as other information of concern to the commission.

TRANSPORTATION SAFETY REPORT AND HIGHWAY SAFETY INPUT:

None.

OTHER BUSINESS

The STH 33 Wisconsin River Bridge project was on schedule and also a project on CTH CS over the I39/90/94 interstate in that project is in progress now. DOT also indicated that they will be building crossovers on the interstate this summer for a project that will be done next year with crossover traffic on the interstate.

Motion to adjourn was made by Andler at approximately 10:47 a.m. Seconded by Gove. Motion carried.

Next Meeting Date: Friday, August 12, 2011 at 9:30 a.m. at the Columbia County Law Enforcement Center John Roche Community Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Patrick Beghin
Columbia County Emergency Management
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Approved