

WAUSHARA COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
April 16, 2010

The Waushara County Traffic Safety Commission Meeting was called to order on April 16, 2010, at 9:30 A.M., by Sheriff David Peterson of the Waushara County Sheriff's Department.

Introductions were done. Attendance is as follows:

Jeff Nett, Waushara County Sheriff's Department
Bill Patterson, Waushara County Highway Department
Joe Piechowski, Waushara County Board Supervisor, Fire Officers Association
Rhae Stertz, Wisconsin State Patrol
Thomas Knoop, DOT/WSP/BOTS
Darlene Masticola, Waushara County Sheriff's Department
Sheriff David Peterson, Waushara County Sheriff's Department
Tim Hanley, WISDOT/NCR-WR-Traffic
Lynn Boening, EM/LEPC, Waushara County Sheriff's Department
Clyde Simonson, Wautoma Area School District
Ruth Zouski, Waushara County Corporation Counsel

Motion was made by Joe Piechowski and seconded by Jeff Nett to approve the agenda as printed. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Jeff Nett and seconded by Clyde Simonson to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2010, Waushara County Traffic Safety Commission Meeting. Motion carried.

Public Comments – None

Reports - None

Old Business

A) Discussion– Safety Concern on STH 49/Cumberland Avenue – from January 2010 Meeting: Tim Hanley advised DOT had reviewed the area of concern, and a letter was sent to Mr. Zink in reference to recommendations made. DOT is recommending adding a no passing zone (pavement marking and signing) in the curve area near the Cumberland Avenue intersection. After review for signing, an additional no passing zone was recommended as the department has revised standards since the last review in 2003. The crash review found this section of roadway to be within normal highway characteristics and no safety problems were identified. In addition, DOT encouraged Mr. Zink to consider adding directional/tail lights onto any farm equipment used on the roadway. Sheriff Peterson felt the biggest concern would probably be in the fall during harvest time.

New Business

A) Discussion/Possible Recommendation – Request for Speed Reduction or Other Signage, CTH Y & CTH JJ: Current speed in the area is 25 Mph. The Waushara County Highway Department conducted speed surveys on March 5, 2010 and March 8, 2010. The information gathered was shared with the Commission. Additional concerns in the area are large trees, a one lane bridge and lakes. It was felt that some people traveling the roadway may not be familiar with it. Crash history from January 2002 to present, none involving the bridge. Bill Patterson related that in Tom Dahlke's opinion, the area is almost over signed. Questions asked about traffic volume and sidewalks. Bill Patterson felt the traffic volume was kind of high for the area from the speed surveys done. Also, there are no sidewalks in the area. It was the recommendation of Tom Dahlke from the Highway Department that no changes need to be made in the area as far as speed or signing. Sheriff Peterson will try and have additional enforcement in the area.

B) Discussion/Possible Recommendation – Highway 49, West Bloomfield: Discussed the area on Highway 49 by the church school. It is a rural area with a six (6) room school. Wide open area, no crash history. Concern with traffic when parents bring and pickup their children, also busses coming and going. There is a school sign in the area. Jeff Nett will check with Tom Dahlke to see if he has talked with anyone from the school, and if not he will follow up with school personnel. No recommendation made at this meeting.

C) Round Table:

Jeff Nett advised the Department was awarded a grant for Badger TraCS, and will be partnering with the City of Wautoma. The system allows for electronic submission of accident reports, citations and warnings. Equipment has been ordered, and he and another officer will train, then come back and train the other officers. Rhae Stertz offered her assistance with Badger TraCS as well.

Tim Hanley stated he contacted someone who works on the motorist handbook in reference to a better diagram/picture in the handbook which would be more in line with the statute. Tim indicated the person he spoke with was receptive to the idea. It was also discussed to do something in reference to school bus awareness in August before school starts in September. Sheriff Peterson suggested doing something at the Waushara County Fair in August as well. Tim Hanley said perhaps he could get some pictures to put up for review and discussion. Sheriff Peterson stated if Tim got the pictures he would find a place at the fair to display them, along with any additional information in reference to this issue. Clyde Simonson feels the problem has improved, and felt information put out in August prior to school starting would be a benefit. Clyde also felt there was some confusion about stopping for a school bus. Vehicles need to stop when busses have the flashing lights on, the stop arm out, and it must be at a complete stop.

Sheriff Peterson advised Waushara County had its first traffic fatality of the year. Individual was not wearing a seat belt.

Waushara County Traffic Safety Commission Meeting Minutes
April 16, 2010 – Page 3

Thomas Knoop advised he is taking over for Patti Nelles who retired. He told the Commission about his background, and reviewed handouts as follows: weekly fatality report as of April 12, 2010, fatalities by county as of April 5, 2010, preliminary year-end 2009 crash statistics as of March 2, 2010, bills of interest to the Wisconsin traffic safety community, discussing several at length, including Act 100 – comprehensive OWI law reform package effective 7/1/2010, and the final handout was about auto insurance requirements.

The next meeting will be held on July 16, 2010, at 9:30 A.M.

Motion was made and seconded to adjourn. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Darlene Mastricola
Administrative Assistant
Waushara County Sheriff's Department