

WAUSHARA COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES
October 16, 2009

The Waushara County Traffic Safety Commission Meeting was called to order on October 16, 2009, at 9:30 A.M., by Sheriff David Peterson of the Waushara County Sheriff's Department. Present at the meeting were the following:

Tom Dahlke, Waushara County Highway Department
Joe Piechowski, Waushara County Board Supervisor, Fire Officers Association
Jeff Liethen, Wisconsin State Patrol
Patti Nelles, WSP/BOTS
Darlene Masticola, Waushara County Sheriff's Department
Sheriff David Peterson, Waushara County Sheriff's Department
Tim Hanley, WISDOT/NCR-WR
Adam Osypowski, WISDOT/NCR-Traffic
Clyde Simonson, Wautoma Area School District
Ruth Zouski, Waushara County Corporation Counsel
Jeff Nett, Waushara County Sheriff's Department
Lynn Boening, Waushara County Sheriff's Department, Division of Emergency Management
Dave Stelter, Waushara Argus
Ryan Dobbs, Wisconsin State Patrol
Chief Randy Reilly, Wautoma Police Department

Motion was made by Tom Dahlke and seconded by Jeff Nett to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Jeff Nett and seconded by Joe Piechowski to approve the minutes of the July 17, 2009, Waushara County Traffic Safety Commission Meeting. Motion carried.

Introductions were done.

Public Comments – None.

Reports – Sheriff Peterson reported that he was not able to set up a meeting with the Vegetable Growers Association in 2009 and hopes to get on an upcoming agenda in 2010 to discuss various issues.

At the November TRIAD meeting, Lt Nett and Tom Dahlke talked about winter driving and techniques for same.

Old Business – None.

New Business

- A) Speed reduction request on CTH E, west of CTH NN: Sheriff Peterson advised he had not received an official request in reference to this. Tom Dahlke reviewed with those present the process and procedure used for changing a speed limit, which includes review of signing, conducting a speed study, and reviewing crash history. For this area, signing is proper, there have been six (6) crashes from 2002 to present, with four (4) of those at the intersection of CTH E & CTH NN. Tom talked about the speed study which was done, and traffic is behaving for the area. Joe Piechowski stated he felt the speed limit was appropriate for the area. Tom Dahlke advised he did respond in writing to the individual who voiced the concern/request. No recommendation needed or given by the Commission.
- B) Speed reduction request on CTH E, north of the Village of Redgranite: Tom Dahlke advised the same process/procedures were followed as outlined in item A for this request as well. Traffic is behaving for the area, with Tom responding in writing to the individual who requested the reduction. No recommendation needed or given by the Commission.

Tom also discussed a request he had received for rumble strips on CTH H, just before Little Silver Lake. From 2005 to present, there have been three (3) crashes, one (1) OWI and two (2) bad weather crashes. A speed study has not been done yet, as the request was just received by the Highway Department, however, the signing/speed limits are appropriate. Tom advised he talked with the individual at length, and no action will be taken by the Highway Department at this time.

- C) School bus stops on STH 21 & STH 73, from Wautoma to Silver Lake: Prior to the meeting Sheriff Peterson provided Commission members with a draft of an article written by Clyde Simonson in reference to stopping for school busses which is slated to be in an upcoming school newsletter. Numerous complaints have been received in reference to vehicles not stopping for school busses which stop at various locations on STH 21 from Silver Lake to Wautoma. Consensus is that motorists do not realize that it is not a divided highway, and by law they are required to stop for school busses that have the stop arm out and have their lights flashing. Clyde stated one particular problem area is by the Village of Learning in the City of Wautoma, and brought this to the Commission for help with the problem in general. In this area, children exiting the bus do not have to cross the highway; however, it takes time for some of them to get off the bus. Tim Hanley reviewed the rules from the motorist handbook, and spoke about an experience he had in Wisconsin Rapids. Tim felt Clyde's article was good, and felt he should include pictures from the handbook as a part of the article. Question was asked if there was any other place to drop off the children, and was advised this is not practical for some of the children who ride the bus. Jeff Liethen reviewed the definition of a divided highway as well as state statutes. Chief Reilly advised the City has written seven (7) citations to date, also that the City works the area during drop off and pick up hours when an officer is available. Sheriff Peterson stated he has discussed with Clyde that bus drivers need to make sure their flashing lights are on, the stop arm is out and the bus needs to be at a complete stop in order to issue citations for violations. Jeff Liethen questioned who the citations were issued to, locals or out of towners, with Chief Reilly responding both. During discussion, it was brought up how important education is. Tom Dahlke and Jeff Nett advised they have and will talk about this when giving presentations to Drivers Ed classes. Sheriff Peterson stated he will put information about this in the paper in an upcoming law of the month article, but also feels another article should be put out in August. Clyde was wondering if some type of sign could be put up either in the

roadway, or on the side of the road about the bus stopping by the Village of Learning, and that motorists need to stop. Tim also suggested putting the issue out for all Traffic Safety Commission Meetings in January. After much discussion on the subject, motion was made by Tom Dahlke and seconded by Jeff Nett to refer sign request to DOT for consideration, with Tom Dahlke stating he will take care of the necessary paperwork to DOT for the request. Motion carried.

Round Table

Chief Reilly - 1) At the intersection of STH 21/22/73 by Martz Insurance Agency, some vehicles heading north on Cambridge Street are failing to stop at the Stop sign on the corner. Would like consideration to change it to a Yield. Line of site was discussed, which is not an issue. Chief Reilly was advised the request would have to go to the State. 2) Questioned if the State would re-paint the arrows on the roadway from Coloma on STH 21. Tom Dahlke advised this was not in the County's painting contract. Tim Hanley advised the State has cut back on painting. Adam Osypowski also explained why painting is done or not done. 3) Requested the replacement of two (2) signs, speed limit sign at Buckhorn Circle and STH 21, and the Stop sign at the intersection of Townline and Division, northeast corner. Tom Dahlke advised the Highway Department will take care of this request.

Lynn Boening – For her plan of work in 2009 she had to put together a mass evacuation plan for the County which is still in draft form. She requested input from this committee, and advised she will e-mail the document to members for their feedback.

Tom Dahlke – Provided information about retro reflectivity pertaining to signs. By 2012 a management plan is needed, compliance plan by 2015, and signs up by 2018.

Tim Hanley advised there is a low cost highway infra structure program for signing upgrades, and will also let Tom know about possible grants available.

Joe Piechowski – Talked about speed limit reduction, stating that Townships can change the speed limit one time by up to 10 Mph by ordinance or resolution. In conjunction with this discussion, Joe asked if Sheriff's Department patrol members could check speed limits when driving on town roads. Sheriff Peterson stated yes, this was something patrol could do. Sheriff Peterson also stated he may request ordinances from the Townships in reference to speed.

Sgt. Jeff Liethen – Talked about tow bands which were done successfully last year during winter weather. Sgt. Liethen advised State Patrol will again use tow bands this year, especially on the interstate. Sheriff Peterson questioned how this could be done uniformly, as the Sheriff's Department will use tow bands again this year as well. Discussed putting yellow tape on vehicle mirrors, and marking vehicles as good as possible, to avoid numerous calls to dispatch.

Tim Hanley – 1) Talked about the aging infrastructure on I-39, and the work that is slated from 2012-2016. 2) Discussed off-days scheduled for the State Engineering Union which may delay response time. 3) Spoke about a speed concern he received on STH 21 coming into Wautoma from Silver Lake, and advised he did speak with the person in reference to this.

Patti Nelles – 1) Handout for review, titled Bills of Interest to the Wisconsin Traffic Safety Community (2009-2010 Legislative Session to date). 2) Traffic fatalities to date are 425, as compared to 475 for the same date in 2008. 2008 was the safest year since World War II. 3) Bureau is out doing seat belt surveys throughout the State, numbers are changing. Patti also stressed the importance of completely filling out the MV4000 forms, i.e. weather, light and road way conditions.

Lt. Jeff Nett – Advised he has met with individuals from the State in reference to setting up short and long term detour routes. Also that the Traffic Incident Management group has met to update planning and training.

Sheriff Peterson – Talked about a meeting he and Lt. Nett had with State Patrol representatives and Luther Olson in reference to funding for regionalized reconstruction equipment and training. Also that accident gathering training was provided to Sheriff's Department officers by the State Patrol.

Meeting dates were set for 2010 as follows: January 15, 2010, April 16, 2010, July 16, 2010 and October 15, 2010.

Motion was made by Randy Reilly and seconded by Patti Nelles to adjourn. Motion carried. All Commission members were present at the conclusion of the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Darlene Mastricola
Administrative Assistant - WSSO