

Vernon County Highway Safety Committee Meeting

April 3rd, 2019 at 1:30 p.m.

Members Attending: Dan Nelson – Vernon Memorial Hospital, Dan Breeser – Wisconsin State Patrol, Joe Schneider – La Crosse WI DOT, Rick Olig – WI DOT BOTS, Viroqua Police Chief Daron Jefson, Dr. Kehl Arnson – Viroqua Area Schools, David Eggen – Vernon County Board, Sheriff John Spears – Vernon County Sheriff's Office, and Tim Hundt – WVRQ, Brandon Larson – Vernon Co Emergency Management, Phil Hewitt – Vernon Co Highway Commissioner

Members Absent: Cary Joholski – Vernon County Board, Justin Running – Vernon County Board

Guests: None

Highway Safety Committee meeting was called to order by David Eggen at 1:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 3rd, 2019 at the Vernon County Sheriff's Office.

Affirmed proper public notice was made. David Eggen asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Sheriff Spears made a motion to approve the minutes of the January meeting. Joe Schneider seconded the motion. Chief Jefson had one change. All were okay with the change. All voted Aye.

Audience to Visitors: None

Sheriff Spears – The quarterly report was handed out. Sheriff Spears reported, compared to last year, total crashes are down by 35 (crashes). Spears recapped the year to year differences as follows:

- Reportable accidents decreased from 2018 by 45
- Non-Reportable accidents increased from 2018 by 10
- No fatal accidents since the last meeting
- Injury Accidents decreased from 2018 by 2
- Non-Injury Accidents decreased from 2018 by 30
- Car v. Deer Accidents decreased from 2018 by 34

Sheriff Spears discussed the semi rollover on Highway 27 North of Westby and stated this is the third accident on that corner, wondering if arrow signs could be put up there. There was an ATV crash on March 23rd on Natwick road. The speed trailer is out and will be moved around the County as needed. Spears also discussed a crash in the City of Westby, the crash was a result of a medical emergency. Dave Eggen asked about traffic control and detours for accidents and routing traffic on township roads. Spears stated car

were not intentionally routed onto Dahlen lane they were just going that way because they know the area.

Luke Yahn – Not present.

Chief Jefson – Chief Jefson reported there will be some road construction this year on a few City streets but no highways. Stated they have their speed board also ready to go out but are still working on it. Asked about options for better pedestrian safety at the crosswalk by Walgreens. Discussion was had but no good answers could be found.

Phil Hewitt – Discussed that the road bans are on and will most likely remain on for a while. One request for ATV use for Town of Greenwood, all were okay with it. There will be a couple of bridge projects this year. County Y from County B to Runge Hollow may be redone this year. Chief Jefson asked about ATV signage specifically from the Viroqua town shop to Kwik Trip North on County Road BB. Hewitt also stated the new highway shop is on schedule and hope to be in December 1st 2019.

Joe Schneider – Discussed the two road projects in Vernon County this year. The first will be Highway 56 in Genoa to the Cox Creek Bridge. The second being Highway 35 by the Fish Hatchery to add a bypass lane.

Rick Olig – Olig stated that there have been 91 crashes to date with 95 fatalities. Both are down from last year. May 20 through June 2nd will be Click It or Ticket campaign. The Governor's Conference on Highway Safety will be held August 20-22 at the Wilderness in WI Dells.

Dan Nelson – Nothing to Report

Dr. Kehl Arnson – Dr. Kehl Arnson stated everything is going well. Have had some parent complaint about other parent s and their driving behavior on parking lots and around the schools but are taking care of it.

Brandon Larson- Nothing to Report

Tim Hundt – Tim Hundt stated he uses social media a lot to get messages out and asked for everyone to keep sending information to him to get out to the public.

Next meeting Wednesday July 3rd, 2019 at 1:30 p.m. at the Vernon County Sheriff's Office.

Adjourn. Motion made by Phil Hewitt, and seconded by Sheriff Spears. All voted Aye. Time: 2:17 pm.

