

Vernon County Highway Safety Committee Meeting

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

Members Attending: Dan Nelson – Vernon Memorial Hospital, Luke Yahn – Wisconsin State Patrol, Joe Schneider – La Crosse WI DOT, Rick Olig – WI DOT BOTS, Dr. Kehl Arnson – Viroqua Area Schools, David Eggen – Vernon County Board, LT Jason Crume – Vernon County Sheriff's Office, Tim Hundt – Media, Brandon Larson – Vernon Co Emergency Management, Justin Running- Vernon County Board,

Members Absent: Cary Joholski – Vernon County Board

Guests: Danny Helgerson- Westby Mayor, David Rynes- Ontario Police, Jeff Wendorf- Kickapoo Schools

Highway Safety Committee meeting was called to order by David Eggen at 1:30 p.m., Wednesday, July 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. Rick Olig made a motion to approve the minutes of the January meeting. Dan Nelson seconded the motion. All voted Aye.

Audience to Visitors: Jeff Wendorf- Discussed the speeds in front of Kickapoo Schools. Stated it is 55 mph and said that people have to cross the highway for some track and field events along with some classes. Asked if there was a way to get it down to 45 mph. Joe Schneider gave some input and told Wendorf to call Brad Byom who works with speed zones, Schneider also stated to talk with the Village of Viola and the Township of Kickapoo.

Mayor Danny Helgerson- Discussed the 55 mph speed zone coming into Westby on Highway 27 and asked why there were no speed reduction zones before coming to the stop sign at Highway 14. Schneider gave some reasoning's of why the DOT does that and it is typically the same way across the State. Helgerson also stated the need for a round a bout at the same intersection, Schneider stated that discussions are still being had for it.

Chief David Rynes- Asked what it would take to get a designated crosswalk on Highway 131 between the canoe rentals and downtown. Right now people walk across the road within a 100 yard stretch. Scheider stated that they would have to have sidewalks leading to both sides of the highway with ADA compliant ramps. It the village did this the DOT would likely issue a permit for the crosswalk. Rynes also asked about a speed zone on Highway 33 coming into the Village and that it is 55 mph all the way to a residential street. The concern is for residents in that area. He was told to contact Brad Byom.

LT Jason Crume – The quarterly report was handed out. LT Crume reported, compared to last year, total crashes are down. There has been 1 fatality in the last quarter. There have been 2 ATV/UTV accidents this year, 1 concern is poker runs for these vehicles. No other traffic issues so far.

Luke Yahn – Discussed one trooper that is typically in this area is being deployed overseas. But there will still be coverage from the State patrol in the area.

Interim Chief Todd Simonson – Not Present

Phil Hewitt – Not present but emailed update to the committee. Stated that all bridge projects are going. Construction on County B to Runge Hollow will be underway soon. County Highway K safety project should be going soon. Also will be starting paving project on Perkins Hill and County Road O from County road Y to Roebels.

Joe Schneider – Stated the Highway 56 project is going. The fish hatchery project should be going in the next few weeks.

Rick Olig – Discussed that all crashes and fatalities are down in 2019 compared to 2018. There have been 15 pedestrian fatalities in the State this year. Also stated that targeting is out for 2020 and 2021 and Vernon Co is not on the list which is good. The Highway Safety Conference is in August in WI Dells.

Dan Nelson – Discussed the continued concerns of merging traffic by Hickory Street in front of the hospital. Also discussed they are looking for organizations to partner with to target drugs, alcohol, and misuse to try and get solutions. Helgerson stated Westby is working with the Tavern League to come to the County. Justin Running stated his business has the cabs in Viroqua and Westby and is running a program similar.

Dr. Kehl Arnson – Dr. Kehl Arnson stated everything is going well Summer school ends this week so traffic flows in the morning and afternoon should slow down for a few months. Have had no other incidents.

Brandon Larson- Nothing to Report

Tim Hundt – Tim Hundt stated he gets out as much information he can and stated Emergency Management and the Sheriff's Office are good about getting important info to him to get out.

Next meeting Wednesday October 2nd, 2019 at 1:30 p.m. at the Vernon County Sheriff's Office.

Adjourn. Motion made by Olig, and seconded by Running. All voted Aye. Time: 2:40 pm.

