

Vernon County Highway Safety Committee Meeting

July 5th, 2017 at 1:30 p.m.

Members Attending : Daron Jefson-Viroqua Police Department, Chad Buros-Vernon County Emergency Management, Bob Bott-WI DOT, Phil Hewitt – Vernon County Highway Commissioner, David Eggen – Vernon County Board, Cary Joholski – Vernon County Board, Joe Schneider-LaCrosse WIDOT, John Spears-Vernon County Sheriff's Department, Sherman Erlandson-Vernon County, Luke Yahn – WI State Patrol, Dan Nelson – Vernon Memorial Hospital, Justin Running – County Board

Members Absent: Tim Hundt – WVRQ, Dr. Kehl Arson – Viroqua Area Schools,

Guests: Jason Crume – Vernon County SO.

Highway Safety Committee meeting was called to order by Sherman Erlandson at 1:29 p.m. Wednesday, July 5th, 2017 at the Vernon County Sheriff's Office.

Affirmed proper public notice was made. Erlandson asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Sheriff Spears made a motion to approve the April 5th, 2017 minutes. Cary Joholski seconded the motion. All voted Aye.

Guest Speakers:

Sheriff Spears – Handed out quarterly report. No fatalities for the second quarter of 2017. Overall numbers were down on the Accident Report.

-Discussed that Deputy Frank was attacked by a deer he was trying to dispatch on highway 14 and was injured.

-Discussed putting the speed board out along the highway for different events around the County.

-Discussed traffic accident at the intersection of Tri-State and Neprud roads. He stated that a car was coming down the hill on Neprud Rd and did not stop at the stop sign and hit another car on the driver side sending them both into the ditch. One of the vehicles struck a cow in a pasture killing it.

Luke Yahn – Discussed that there will be a higher presence of troopers starting July 8th and going for 2 weeks for the Click It or Ticket campaign.

Chief Jefson – Discussed that the yellow and white lines will be painted in the City and will also do the area by the hospital on Hickory Street. Also discussed that a portion of Center Street will be closed permanently just off of East Broadway behind the Viroqua Food Coop in the near future. A four way stop is also now in place at the intersection of Church and Center streets just up from the road closure on Center Street.

Phil Hewitt – Hewitt updated the committee on the County JJ bridge. The bridge will be closed for an undermined amount of time. The bridge on County Rd T will also be closed for about 6 more weeks. The ATV route information is back from Corp Counsel now just needs to go through the proper committees. Discussion was also had about County roads B and GG and the heavy truck traffic.

Joe Schneider – Highway 14 will be resurfaced, and box culverts will be extended this summer between Coon Valley and Vang Road, should be done this fall somewhere around Labor Day. Also discussed that roundabouts would cost about \$1-1.5 million per roundabout and with property loss going up they are getting harder to justify.

Robert Bott –The Governor’s Conference is Aug 22-24 and brochures were handed out. Fatal crashes in the State are down 1% from last year but up 5% for the 5 year average. Stated that he is monitoring some grants for the County. Grant period will be starting over in October. Drive sober campaign will be during Labor Day.

Dan Nelson – The City will be painting the pedestrian crossing in front of the hospital on Main Street. The hospital has an offer to purchase 3 properties across from Kwik Trip with a business office potential and valet parking.

Dr. Kehl Arnson – Absent

Chad Buros– Nothing to report.

Tim Hundt – Absent.

Lt. Jason Crume- Discussion was had on the issues on Highway 14 near cut across road and the possibility of placing curve signs near the Fortun property so traffic understands that the road curves. Also discussed the Saugstad road and Highway 14 intersection and that it is too expensive to change that area.

Next meeting Wednesday October 4th, 2017 at 1:30 p.m. at the Vernon County Sheriff’s Office.

Adjourn. Motion made by David Eggen, seconded by Sheriff Spears. All voted Aye.
Time: 1:55 pm.