

Vernon County Highway Safety Committee Meeting

October 4th, 2017 at 1:30 p.m.

Members Attending : Daron Jefson-Viroqua Police Department, Chad Buros-Vernon County Emergency Management, , David Eggen – Vernon County Board, Joe Schneider-LaCrosse WIDOT, John Spears-Vernon County Sheriff's Department, Sherman Erlandson-Vernon County, Trace Frost BOTS LEL , Justin Running – County Board

Members Absent: Tim Hundt – WVRQ, Dr. Kehl Arnson – Viroqua Area Schools, Cary Joholski –Vernon County Board, Luke Yahn – WI State Patrol, Phil Hewitt – Vernon County Highway Commissioner, John Evans – DOT/Hill Farms

Members Excused: Dan Nelson – Vernon Memorial Hospital

Highway Safety Committee meeting was called to order by Sherman Erlandson at 1:30p.m. Wednesday, October 4th, 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. Daron Jefson made a motion to approve the July 5th, 2017 minutes. David Eggen seconded the motion. All voted Aye.

Guest Speakers:

Sheriff Spears – Handed out quarterly report. Only 1 fatality for the third quarter of 2017. Overall numbers were down on the Accident Report.

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

-Discussed how News 19 came to interview on car deer crashes and how the amount of crashes is down despite the amount of deer around.

Trace Frost – Introduced himself as a representative for BOTS he is a Law Enforcement Liaison. He stated that there are a total of 3 people including himself around the State and one of the 3 should be at each meeting.

Luke Yahn – Absent

Chief Jefson – Discussed that North Center Ave is now permanently closed behind the Food Coop for their expansion.

-Discussed that the fair went well, also stated he thought they were missing some pedestrian signs on Main Street in front of the Fairgrounds. May be buying some new signs for next year.

-Discussed speeding problems on South Main and that they have issued numerous tickets this year

-Discussed that he had gotten a complaint about an intersection by Pleasant Ridge School how traffic was uncontrolled. He went to that intersection and found that it does have stop signs and resolved the issue via email with the complainant.

Phil Hewitt – Absent

Joe Schneider –Highway 14 near Coon Valley project has been completed and it went well.

Trace Frost: Discussed that there have been 449 fatalities in the State this year and 444 from the same time last year. There was a total of 588 in 2016. Discussed Community Maps for plotting crashes, talked about a merger with another system to make it easier for Law Enforcement as long as GPS coordinates are included with the accident report. He also talked about possibly doing a demo of the Community Maps in 2018 so everyone can have a better understanding.

Dan Nelson – Excused

Dr. Kehl Arnson – Absent

Chad Buross/Brandon Larson: Discussed the upcoming road construction on Highway 33 between Hillsboro and Union Center. Gasser Construction will be milling and repaving the road surface starting Oct 11th weather depending. Traffic will be down to one lane with flaggers for approximately a week. Shouldering, guardrail, and signage will be done for another 2 weeks after the repaving but that will have less impact on traffic flow.

Tim Hundt – Absent.

David Eggen: Discussed a traffic accident at the intersection of Highway 27 and County Road P Oct. 3rd. Also discussed he has gotten some complaints of manure haulers using semi tankers and taking up one lane of travel on different town roads in Christiana and Viroqua Townships. They have been breaking up the road edges with the amount of weight and travel they have been doing. Also stated that they have been hauling 24 hours a day. Was going to let Phil Hewitt know about this for the Town of Viroqua. This is a potential safety issue with blocking most of the road because they are not wide enough.

Next meeting Wednesday January 3rd, 2018 at 1:30 p.m. at the Vernon County Sheriff's Office.

Adjourn. Motion made by David Eggen, seconded by Chief Jefson. All voted Aye.
Time: 1:54 pm.