

## **Vernon County Highway Safety Committee Meeting**

**January 3rd, 2018 at 1:30 p.m.**

**Members Attending :** Daron Jefson-Viroqua Police Department, Brandon Larson-Vernon County Emergency Management, Randy Weissinger-WI DOT, David Eggen – Vernon County Board, Joe Schneider-LaCrosse WIDOT, John Spears-Vernon County Sheriff's Department, Sherman Erlandson-Vernon County, Tim Hundt- WVRQ, Kehl Arnson- Viroqua Schools

**Members Absent:** Justin Running, Cary Joholski, Luke Yahn, Dan Nelson, Phil Hewitt (Excused)

**Guests:** Jason Crume – Vernon County SO., Roger Call- Viroqua Resident

Highway Safety Committee meeting was called to order by Sherman Erlandson at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, January 3rd, 2018 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. David Eggen made a motion to approve the October 4th, 2017 minutes. Sheriff Spears seconded the motion. All voted Aye.

### **Guest Speakers:**

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**Sheriff Spears** – Handed out quarterly report. Only 2 fatalities for the fourth quarter of 2017. Overall numbers were down on the Accident Report.

-Discussed the amount of Amish buggy vs. vehicle crashes that have occurred and that a lot of the buggies in the area do not have good lighting. Chief Jefson said he has had complaints in the City about Amish buggies. Sheriff Spears was unsure if there was any legislation regarding requiring Amish buggies to have better lighting. Randy Weissinger stated that there is legislation pending but unsure how long it could take if it is even approved.

-Discussed a vehicle vs. bicycle crash that occurred where a truck driver was blinded by the sun and hit a bicycle rider. The truck driver was using a video recorder in his truck and it shows that he was slowing down because he could not see.

-Handed out an ATV ordinance for Phil Hewitt that will be taken to the full County Board for approval

**Luke Yahn** – Absent

**Chief Jefson** – Discussed a car vs. pedestrian accident that occurred at the intersection of Jefferson and Rock street, stated that it is a 4 way stop and the driver was not from the area. Stated that there is a lot of activity in that area with a new apartment complex, the library, Eagles club, and Parkview manor all right there.

-Roger Call discussed the speed of vehicles on East Decker Street both leaving and coming into town. Stated that vehicles are coming into the 25 mph corner too fast and are leaving town and accelerating before the 55mph. East South Street is just around the sharp corner and drivers at that intersection have a hard time getting out. Discussed if there were any options of moving speed limit signs or putting in some other signs to get drivers to go a slower speed. Joe Schneider said the only way they could change speed limit signs is if they did a traffic speed study and went through their calculations to see if it is worth moving signs. It was decided a traffic study will be done in the spring and will go from there on any decisions.

**Phil Hewitt** – Absent (Excused)

**Joe Schneider** – Discussed that there has been issues of incidents not being reported to the STOC in Milwaukee. Wanted to just give a reminder that if there is any roadway issues to let the STOC know.

-Discussed that there is not much for DOT construction work for the upcoming year in the County.

**Randy Wiessinger** – Discussed that there is 6 fatalities in the Counties 5 year average. There were 595 fatalities in the State in 2017 and 588 in 2016. Also stated that there has been a spike in pedestrian fatalities.

-Showed the website Community Maps and how it tracks accidents throughout the State and that information is automatically updated into that system when law enforcement files their report.

**Dan Nelson** – Absent

**Dr. Kehl Arnson** – Discussed the challenges they are having finding qualified bus drivers.

-No reports of any incidents involving traffic and the buses

-Their biggest issue is in the Elementary parking lot for parent pickup and drop off times.

**Brandon Larson**- Discussed the HazMat call on Highway 14 on 12-27-17 and that milk had spilled and froze to the roadway. The village of Readstown came out and scraped what they could off the roadway and put salt and sand down so it was not slippery.

**Tim Hundt** – Discussed that he is happy with getting road reports from S.O. and to let him know of any traffic incidents that should be broadcast on the radio to alert drivers in the area. Sheriff Spears thanked him for the work that he does in getting things on the radio for different incidents.

**Next meeting Wednesday April 4th, 2018 at 1:30 p.m. at the Vernon County Sheriff's Office.**

**Adjourn.** Motion made by Daron Jefson, seconded by Joe Schneider. All voted Aye.  
Time: 2:27 pm.