

Vernon County Highway Safety Committee Meeting

April 4th, 2018 at 1:30 p.m.

Members Attending : Daron Jefson-Viroqua Police Department, Brandon Larson-Vernon County Emergency Management, Rick Olig-WI DOT BOTS, David Eggen – Vernon County Board, Joe Schneider-LaCrosse WIDOT, Jason Crume-Vernon County Sheriff's Department, Sherman Erlandson-Vernon County, Tim Hundt- WVRQ, Kehl Arnson- Viroqua Schools, Phil Hewitt- Vernon County Highway Commissioner, Luke Yahn- WI State Patrol, Dan Nelson- Vernon Memorial Hospital

Members Absent: Justin Running, Cary Joholski

Guests: Roger Call- Viroqua Resident

Highway Safety Committee meeting was called to order by Sherman Erlandson at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 4th, 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 January 3rd, 2018 minutes. Phil Hewitt seconded the motion. All voted Aye.

Guest Speakers: None

Lt Jason Crume in place of Sheriff Spears – Handed out quarterly report. 3 fatalities since the beginning of 2018. Overall numbers were up on the Accident Report from the same time last year.

-Township of Webster has passed their ordinance on the ATV/UTV routes.

Luke Yahn – Nothing to report

Chief Jefson – Stated that the same stoplight has been knocked down twice recently at the corner of North Main and East Decker Street due to accidents.

Phil Hewitt – Discussed the Townships that have requested approval for ATV/UTV routes in their townships. Town of Clinton- County roads D, P, and S. Town of Webster- County roads D, S, Y, SS. Town of Christiana- County roads P, PC, X. The Township of Hillsboro has had some concerns on the ordinance but the ATV club has requested County roads WW, W, HH, FF, and F for approval.

-Discussed that road bans are still on for now. Hewitt also stated he may talk with the Sheriff's Office and WI State Patrol about requiring permits next year for large trucks and potentially hire off duty officers to patrol roads for overweight trucks. If found to be overweight a citation may be issued.

-County road JJ bridge still closed, paperwork is somewhere with FEMA for approval.

-Discussed County road Y West will be redone this year from Highway 14 to County road B.

-La Crosse County had a traffic incident last week on Highway 35 and routed traffic onto a lesser traveled road that is under the road ban instead of sending them onto a State Highway that was not far away into and through Vernon County for 8 hours without notifying anyone from the Highway Department. Phil has set up meetings with La Crosse County and the DOT to discuss this.

Joe Schneider – Discussed that once the weather straightens out speed assessments will be done on Highway 56 East coming into town that was discussed in January.

Rick Olig –There were 105 crashes in 2017 with 119 fatalities and for the same time in 2018 there have been 115 crashes with 125 fatalities.

-Olig touched on the community mapping for Law Enforcement and said that only 1 crash for Vernon County was not mapped.

-Discussed that the County profile has changed since last year and a new one will be sent out.

- Discussed that the Animal Drawn Vehicle law has passed legislature effective April 4th where during hours of darkness and inclement weather that buggies must have 2 white lights shining to the front, 2 red lights shining to the rear, and 1 amber flashing light.

- Discussed that a lot of other bills have passed legislation, 2 in particular being that for 4 or more OWI's it would be a lifetime license revocation, and the second being the ATV signage bill #AB442 passed in where municipalities do not have to sign each intersection, they just need to sign at the start and end of the municipality on that particular road.

Dan Nelson – Discussed parking issues on Nelson Parkway at the new Wellness Center, they do have No Parking to use as needed.

-Discussed crosswalk issues at Hickory Street with vehicles not seeing pedestrians, Chief Jefson stated that they are getting new signs that may work. Other options were discussed with no real good alternative at this time.

Dr. Kehl Arnson – Discussed that the school is looking at long term strategic planning for growth and traffic flows around the schools. There is a lot of traffic around the schools at drop off and pick up times. Everything else is going well

Brandon Larson- Nothing to report

Tim Hundt – Stated that if anyone has a traffic incident or message that they want to get out to just call and he would make sure it gets out on the radio.

Next meeting Wednesday July 11th, 2018 at 1:30 p.m. at the Vernon County Sheriff's Office.

Adjourn. Motion made by David Eggen, seconded by Joe Schneider. All voted Aye.
Time: 2:19 pm.