

Vernon County Highway Safety Committee Meeting

July 11th, 2018 at 1:30 p.m.

Members Attending : Chief Daron Jefson-Viroqua Police Department, Brandon Larson-Vernon County Emergency Management, David Eggen – Vernon County Board, Brad Byom-LaCrosse WIDOT, Sheriff John Spears-Vernon County Sheriff's Department, Justin Running-Vernon County Board, Tim Hundt- WVRQ, Phil Hewitt- Vernon County Highway Commissioner, Luke Yahn- WI State Patrol

Members Absent: Cary Joholski, Kehl Arnson, Dan Nelson, Rick Olig

Guests: Roger Call- Vernon County Board, Barbara Laufenberg- Cashton, Tanja Birke-Viroqua City Council, LT Jason Crume- Vernon Co Sheriff's Dept

Highway Safety Committee meeting was called to order by David Eggen at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 11th, 2018 at the Vernon County Sheriff's Office.

Affirmed proper public notice was made. Eggen asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the previous meeting. Justin Running made a motion to approve the April 4th, 2018 minutes. Daron Jefson seconded the motion. All voted Aye.

Audience to Visitors: Barbara Laufenberg- Discussed how she had an accident on June 1st while making a left turn off of Highway 27 into Norseland Nursing Home outside of Westby and was rear ended by a car traveling 50mph. She stated this area is a high traffic area and wanted to see if anything could be done to make it safer such as lowering speed or changing the road. She said there was a speed study done and wanted to see if another one would be done. Brad Byom-DOT stated that in that area the speed cannot be lowered due to State Statutes.

Roger Call- Inquired about the speed study that was going to be done on Highway 56 East on the edge of the City limits and whether anything can be done or not. Brad Byom stated he would check on the speed study but didn't think anything could be done right now to fix the speeding issue leaving and entering the City.

Sheriff Spears – Handed out quarterly report. No fatalities in the latest quarter of 2018 although accidents are up and car-deer accidents are up considerably from the same time last year.

- Stated the speed trailer has been deployed around the County and for different events to help remind drivers of their speed.

Luke Yahn – Nothing to report

Chief Jefson – Stated the City is repainting all yellow and white lines around the City. They are testing a new crosswalk pattern at Main and Decker. Stated that No Parking was added on North Center behind Walgreens to help with traffic flow to and from the Food Coop. No major construction is happening in the City this year.

Phil Hewitt – Discussed the Townships of Forest, Hamburg, Hillsboro, Viroqua, and Whitestown are wanting to be approved to open their roads to ATV use. All were in favor of this. Hewitt will be taking it to the Highway Committee for approval. The Sheriff's Committee will also discuss and vote for possible approval.

-County Road Y is being milled and will be repaved in the coming weeks.

- Construction on the Old Line Bridge and the bridge on County S near Serendipity golf course will be starting soon. County road JJ bridge still closed, paperwork is somewhere with Wisconsin Emergency Management/FEMA for approval.

Brad Byom for Joe Schneider – Discussed that the DOT is investigating whether to put in a round-a-bout in at the intersection of Highway 14/27/ and County road T.

- Also discussed that maybe a speed board would help remind drivers of their speed on Highway 56 in Viroqua. Tanja Birke Viroqua City Council- asked to keep pedestrians and bicyclists in mind when making decisions for their safety and to balance things out as best as possible.

Rick Olig – Not Present

Dan Nelson – Not Present

Dr. Kehl Arnson – Not Present

Brandon Larson- Discussed the accident at Highway 27 and County road P that involved a vehicle that pulled out from County road P and hit an agriculture sprayer which tipped over resulting in a minor spill of a chemical.

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 October 3rd, 2018 at 1:30 p.m. at the Vernon County Sheriff's Office.

Adjourn. Motion made by Phil Hewitt, seconded by Justin Running. All voted Aye.
Time: 2:16 pm.