

Vernon County Highway Safety Committee Meeting

October 3rd, 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, Joe Schneider-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, Dan Nelson- Vernon Memorial Hospital, Rick Olig- WI DOT BOTS, Cary Joholski- Vernon County Board

Members Absent: Kehl Arnson

Guests: Roger Call- Vernon County Board, Joel Grenier- Village of Desoto

Highway Safety Committee meeting was called to order by David Eggen at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, October 3rd, 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. Sheriff Spears made a motion to approve the July 11th, 2018 minutes. Phil Hewitt seconded the motion. All voted Aye.

Audience to Visitors: Joel Grenier- Desoto village President spoke about speeds on the East end of Main street and how people seem to be going too fast and asked if the 25mph sign could be moved farther out to the East. Joe Schneider talked about the process and that a speed study would have to be done. Sheriff Spear said the speed board has been out.

Sheriff Spears – Handed out quarterly report. One fatality 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.
- Thanked everyone for their help and response during the flooding.

Luke Yahn – Stated there is 1 trooper and 1 inspector assigned to Vernon County and that the trooper has transferred to another County but Yahn anticipates the trooper position be filled again soon.

Chief Jefson – Stated that during the fair the signage out by the main entrance had been changed this year and seemed to help with the traffic. Also stated there is a need for a street light out there. He was going to talk with Xcel Energy about putting a light out by the main entrance. E.M. Director Larson stated that WI Emergency Management has a light tower that could be requested as well.

Phil Hewitt – Thanked everyone for their help and response during the flooding.

- Old Line road the bridge is still closed for construction
- County Rd S bridge is still under construction
- Highway 162 between Cty K North and Cty K South is closed due to road failure
- There will be a new person plowing highway 14 this year so be patient
- They will be using more salt brine and less salt this year.
- Highway 14 on the West hill is in the bidding process to be repaired soon.
- Highway 131 is open again after being paved after being compromised from the flooding.

Joe Schneider – DOT is busy working on State road repairs following the flooding

Rick Olig – Stated there have been 4 fatal accidents in the County this year and one in this quarter. Also have had 402 crashes so far in 2018 with 446 fatalities. In 2017 there were 420 crashes with 459 fatalities.

- Drive sober campaign will be coming in December.

Dan Nelson – Thanked the City of Viroqua for adapting to their parking changes after changing what entrances they use.

- Asked about speeds on Nelson Parkway near the Wellness Center, Chief Jefson said they have patrolled it and speeds have not changed much since the Wellness Center moved there.

Dr. Kehl Arnson – Not Present

Brandon Larson- Thanked everyone for their response during the flooding. Discussed the Towns of Harmony and Stark have ATV requests. Hewitt stated the Highway committee voted to pass them. The Highway Safety committee also voted to approve them.

Tim Hundt – Thanked Sheriff Spears and Director Larson for getting information to the radio station during the flooding. Also stated that the road reports that are put out are well like by the public.

Next meeting Wednesday January 2nd, 2018 at 1:30 p.m. at the Vernon County Sheriff's Office.

Adjourn. Motion made by Phil Hewitt, seconded by Daron Jefson. All voted Aye. Time: 2:08 pm.