

# WINNEBAGO COUNTY SAFETY COMMISSION

## Meeting Minutes- January 9, 2013

### Members Present:

Mike McGinley-Community Representative  
Bob Doemel-Winnebago County Highway  
Tim Seaver- Town of Menasha PD  
Daunita Kline-Community Representative  
Mike Panosh-DOT-BOTS  
Bill Anthes- Winnebago County Sheriff's Office  
Matt Albrecht-Menasha PD  
Kevin Wilkinson-Neenah PD  
Dan Kussman-City of Oshkosh Transit

Meeting was called to order at 9:00 A.M. by Mike McGinley. Members were recorded and collected. Minutes from the last two meetings were not available on the County's website and as such were not approved by the committee. Last minutes on the County's website were from 04/11/12.

### NEW BUSINESS

McGinley-Read resignation letter of Georgia Buttke who gave up her position due to health concerns. Recommended that we replace her position with a new Chairperson and suggested that Bob Doemel become the new Chair. This was agreed upon by the committee and voted on unanimously. Bob Doemel has become the new Chairperson for this committee. Group discussion about what the responsibilities and purpose of the Traffic Safety Committee (TSC) are. It was decided that Mike Panosh will send an email of the TSC pamphlet and guidelines to members and will be discussed at the meeting in April so it was tabled for now. Mike also brought up three areas of traffic concerns within the County.

- 1) Leonard Point Rd/STH 21 continues to have speed issues and left turn issues from Leonard Point onto eastbound STH 21 in which traffic has to cross two westbound lanes of travel which creates a dangerous situation. Suggestions in the past included eliminating that turn intersection and requiring the vehicles to travel eastbound on Omro Rd instead by creating a J-Turn intersection on STH 21 which would only allow access to Leonard Point Rd. from eastbound STH 21 and traffic on Leonard Point Rd. only able to proceed westbound on STH 21.
- 2) Sunnyview/CTH A continues to have speed issues and residents have concerns about vehicles crashing when proceeding from Sunnyview across CTH A.
- 3) USH 45 ramps at RYF Rd. are not lit up at night, have steep embankments with no guardrails, and a concerned citizen is afraid that someone will drive off the road and not be found.

Wilkinson- Requested a Web presence for more citizen involvement with the TSC. Kevin also went over the serious crash data from the City of Neenah that occurred in 2012. Mike Panosh indicated that he would add the TSC guidelines, GIS mapping, crash data portal info, and DOT website info onto the Agenda for the April meeting. There were a total of 8 crashes involving serious injury in the City of Neenah.

Albrecht- Reported that Menasha PD has just completed the first year of a new program in which citizens can email or phone in a traffic related matter to the agency for review. Matt estimated that there were approximately 27 incidents that were investigated and that the community members had positive reports about this program. A similar program is already established at the Sheriff's Office.

Anthes- Reported about the fatality on December 15<sup>th</sup> on CTH I just north of CTH N in the Town of Nekimi. 80 year old Robert Zentner of rural Oshkosh died as a result of injuries he suffered when the vehicle he was operating southbound on CTH I (Oregon Rd) was struck head on by an intoxicated driver that was travelling northbound on CTH I and crossed the center line. Zentner's wife was also injured in the crash. The 57 yoa Oshkosh man is awaiting to be charged with Zentner's death while the investigation continues.

Kussman- Pedestrian flashers are in the works of being installed in the roundabout at Jackson/Murdock as part of a Federal Study. Look for them to be operational by the end of this month.

Panosh- Statewide traffic fatality totals for 2012 were 601. In 2011 they were 565 so 2012 marks the first year since 2007 that fatalities have risen above the 600 threshold. Passenger deaths increased as did motorcycle deaths in 2012. An OWI Task force has been created in Winnebago County and has had some success since it's creation in November of 2012. There is a Facebook page specific to these task forces.

Kline- Concerns on the sightline at Knapp St/Durfee with trees blocking the view. The City has looked into this problem and reports that the trees are on private property and meet the guidelines for the setback. Duanita also concerned about the traffic that will be created when the new CVS Pharmacy is built and questioned who pays for the street improvements, the businesses are required to pay for any Traffic Impact Studies and/or traffic improvements.

Seaver- Positive feedback on the OWI taskforce especially noticeable in his community where there is an average of 2-3 officers working in his community at any given time. The task force allowed about a dozen working law enforcement during it's deployment. Lt. Rick Lenault will be the new representative for the Town of Menasha PD.

Bob Doemel- Reported snow removal and vision concerns for the amount of snow received already this year. The ramps at STH 26 and STH 44 have vision problems that will be addressed with graders, also some of the predicted warmer weather this coming week may eliminate some snow. The roundabouts are being addressed in the overnight hours when traffic has less of an impact. Bob also informed TSC of the RR quiet zone that is being implemented at the crossing on Snell Rd. They have been working directly with the railroad on matters at Snell, Butler, and CTH Y crossings.

The next meeting is scheduled for 09:00 A.M. on Wednesday April 10, 2013 at the Winnebago County Sheriff's Office.

Motion to adjourn by Kussman; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Doemel. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:50 A.M.