

UNAPPROVED MINUTES

Clark County Highway Safety Committee

The meeting was held on Tuesday, March 15, 2016 in the Clark County Sheriff's Office Law Enforcement Training Room (309).

Call to Order

Chief Deputy Hirsch called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.

Roll Call

Committee Members Present: Jim Hirsch, Chief Deputy; Dennis Buchholz, Highway Operations Manager; Clay Kreitlow, Patrol Captain; Allan Hoesly, Educator; Robert Bott, Regional Program Manager for Wisconsin State Patrol/Bureau of Transportation Safety (WSP/BOTS); Patrick Kraetke, State Patrol; and Rick Tumaniec; Wisconsin DOT Traffic Engineer.

Committee Members Absent: Randy Anderson, Highway Commissioner; Francis Carl, Medicine; Greg Herrick, Sheriff; Jason Bakken, State Patrol; Scott Jalling, Citizen; Bruce Sautebin, Law; Steven Bachman, Wisconsin DOT Traffic Engineer.

Other in Attendance: Dale Erickson, School District of Neillsville; Scott Klueckmann, Neillsville Chief of Police; and Diane Evans Stasko, WAWHSL.

Minutes

Motion by Allan Hoesly, seconded by Dennis Buchholz to approve the Tuesday, December 15, 2015 meeting minutes. Voice vote with all "aye"; motion carried.

Bureau of Transportation Safety

Robert Bott reviewed the following information for members to review:

- Fatality Report
 - Daily Fatality Report
 - 95 as of March 14, 2016
 - 73 fatalities YTD 2015
 - Weekly Report
 - 5-year average is 77 as of March 14, 2016
- State Patrol Laws of the Month
 - January 2016- What to do when you see flashing lights on the highway
 - February 2016- Drivers must not get within 200 feet of the rear of a snowplow
 - March 2016-Traffic citation fines are doubles in work zones
- Clark County has availability for two (2) grants
 - Seatbelt grant
 - Speed grant

Update on School District of Neillsville-Unusually Hazardous Transportation Plan (UHT)

Motion by Allan Hoesly, seconded by Scott Klueckmann to recommend the Sheriff to consider approval for the Unusually Hazardous Transportation Plan (UHT). Voice vote with all "aye"; motion carried.

Other Statistics/Reports

Nothing at this time.

Area Safety Concerns

Dennis Buchholz informed the committee on the following:

- There was a concern from a mother whose children are crossing 3-lanes of highway for a bus stop. The committee suggested that the safest correction would be to make a turnaround in the family's driveway.
- There was a concern about the corner of Hwy 10 and Hewitt Street. The semi-trucks coming from the east cannot make the corner in the left lane. Because it is impossible to make that corner, the semi-trucks rub against the stoplight causing the stoplight to lean.

State Highway Engineer

Rick Tumaniec discussed that there will be no updates on projects until August 2016. He also stated Steve Bachman will give an update on the projects during the next highway safety meeting.

At 9:25 AM, Patrol Captain Clay Kreitlow left the meeting.

At 9:26 AM, Patrol Captain Kreitlow joined the meeting.

County Fatality Update

Chief Deputy Hirsch and Patrol Captain Kreitlow reported the two (2) fatalities since our last meeting:

- On January 28, 2016 at about 1:36 PM, a truck versus buggy accident was reported on County Highway A, just 1/10 mile west of Cherry Avenue, in the Township of Mayville. The horse-drawn buggy was traveling eastbound when a large logging truck approached the buggy going west. As they met, about 30 yards away from each other, the horse became spooked and turned abruptly in front of the truck into the lane of traffic. The operator of the truck tried to avoid the buggy and swerved, but struck the buggy before entering the north ditch. Both occupants in the buggy were ejected. The 50 year old male in the buggy was pronounced dead at the scene. The 49 year old female passenger was transported by helicopter to St. Joseph's Hospital for incapacitating injuries. The 39 year old male driver of the truck and his passenger, 19 year old male were uninjured. Alcohol and speed do not believe to be factors; seatbelts were used by the occupants in the truck, but no types of restraint were used by the buggy occupants.

- On February 4, 2016 at approximately 8:39 AM, an accident between a minivan and semi-truck was reported at the intersection of Pray Avenue and State Highway 29 in the township of Green Grove. The minivan, driven by a 78 year old male was traveling southbound on Pray Avenue and attempted to cross State Highway 29. The semi-truck, driven by a 54 year old male, traveling eastbound on Highway 29 was unable to avoid the collision and struck the minivan. The driver of the minivan was transported to the Marshfield hospital by ambulance. The passenger of the minivan, a 78 year old female was extricated from the vehicle and transported to the hospital by the Spirit Air Helicopter. The female died from her injuries nine days later on February 13, 2016. Alcohol and speed were not factors; seatbelts were used by the driver of the semi-truck, but not by the occupants of the minivan.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for 9 AM on Tuesday, June 21, 2016 at the Clark County Sheriff's Office Training Room (309).

Public Comment

Dale Erickson informed the committee that Wisconsin school buses will change appearance which the public will be seeing in the near future.

Rick Tumaniec informed the committee on a training at Granton Fire Department for Traffic Scene Management on Wednesday, March 16, 2016 from 7 PM to 11 PM.

Diane Evans Stasko informed the committee how the statistics of seatbelts worn are tracked.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn by Allan Hoesly, seconded by Dennis Buchholz. Voice vote with all "aye"; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 9:32 AM.

*Submitted by:
Heidi M. Mnichowicz
Administrative Assistant/Supervisor
Clark County Sheriff's Office*