

## HIGHWAY SAFETY

May 5, 2015

**Call to order** The meeting was called to order at 10:07 a.m. by County Board Vice Chairman Tom Cornford. In attendance were: Joe Schneider, Tom Cornford, Joe Morovits, Dennis Pelock, Todd Myers, Sheriff Dale McCullick, and Julie Check. Chairman Kersten Rocksvold and Bob Rott joined the meeting after it had started.

**Verify posting** Tom Cornford verified that the meeting notice was properly posted.

**Approval of Minutes** Motion by Myers, seconded by Morovits to approve the minutes from the February 3, 2015 meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

**Next Meeting** August 4, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. at the Seneca Highway Conference Room.

**Introduction of Guests** Artie Johnson and Ron Hartley were introduced to the committee to voice their concerns regarding the speed limit coming into and leaving Town of Seneca. Artie and Ron have had requests from the public with school age children to lower the speed limit in Seneca at both ends of town. There are 25 kids in Seneca Heights. Some people are driving 60 mph by the time they get to Seneca Heights. The citizens of the Town of Seneca would like to totally eliminate the 40 mph signs. They would like it to go from 55 mph outside town to 25 mph from Seneca Heights all the way thru town to the church then back to 55 mph. From the North side to the South side of town. They would like this changed due to the number of kids in Seneca, and because there is so much more truck traffic on STH 27. This includes ALOT of truck traffic and alot of outsiders. No accidents YET but plenty of close calls. Right now the speed limit is 25 mph at bottom of hill prior to Johnsons One Stop, this needs to be moved back to the church. Ron Hartley and Artie Johnson asked to have someone from WisDOT sit by Johnson One Stop during grain season and see all the issues with the 40 mph by church down to 25 mph at bottom of hill right before Johnsons One Stop. Ron Hartley insisted the 40 mph is way too fast where it is posted.

Sheriff Dale McCullick asked if they could put up pedestrian signs.

Joe Schneider from WisDOT explained how a speed study works and that a speed study was done in Seneca 2 years ago. Not much has changed since the last speed study. Joe recommended looking

into speed display boards and better facility for pedestrian traffic. Joe explained he will have the safety engineer relook at the speed study, look at transition points, look at changes from 2 years ago to now. Also, have engineer relook at the data and relook at different spots.

Bob Bott explained with special grants other options could include putting officers in town in plain clothes, and speed boards to assist in these areas.

## **Road Hazards**

Dennis Pelock informed the committee that the construction for improving the intersections at Pleasant Mound and Maple Ridge is underway.

Joe Schneider stated that the state would need a request from the municipalities involved to perform speed limit studies. These are typically performed in the summer months and mid- day.

There was a motion by Cornford, second by Myers to support a speed study in the areas of concern around Gays Mills.

Dennis then spoke about a recent motorcycle accident on Orchard Hill. The motorcyclist suggested different signage or markers regarding a hairpin turn on the hill. Denny would like the state to take a look at this issue.

There have also been some requests to change the speed limit through Rising Sun to 55 mph. Some have felt the 40 mph is too slow.

## **New Business**

Sheriff McCullick brought up the subject of the ATV/UTV routes. Commissioner Pelock explained how someone needs to view site distance, intersections etc. Joe Schneider said the DNR warden explained a lot when he went to the Grant County meeting, (The DNR warden was Gary Eddy out of Madison) the DNR warden explained how the DNR had very little time for enforcement, the club should be responsible for the signing and it needs to be accurate. According to Joe Schneider, WisDOT had no ATV/UTV routes on state highways until last summer. Now the applications are all being reviewed individually.

ATV/UTV trails – Discussion on safety.

Todd Myers discussed the missing Route marker sign at 82 & 35. The SMRT bus driver explained that he wished the sign could be moved because it was too hard to see when pulling out at this

intersection by 82 Lansing bridge and bypass lane when he picks up riders for SMRT bus. Todd discussed with the SMRT bus driver's boss the possibility of moving pickup location, since this was not a good place to park.

Those present discussed the conflicts of the Amish on the Wisconsin Road Ways at local levels.

#### **WI DOT-BOTS**

Bob Bott spoke of fatalities (6).

Bob Bott handed out his Traffic Safety Task Force Operations sheet, and Traffic Safety Commission Best Practices information packet including membership forms.

Bob discussed the Task Force meeting in Appleton, WI, May 27, 2015 and the Governor's Conference – Highway Safety , May 26 and 27.

#### **WI DOT**

Joe Schneider said the speed study for Gays Mills is on the list for Brad to do this summer, he has several to do.

In regards to the motorcycle issue on the Orchard Hills, Joe Schneider said they will not use a loop sign instead of a 90° sign, they will change the sheeting on the 15 mph curve sign to fluorescent sheeting. They looked at the chevron spacing and that looked good.

About the requests to change the speed limit in Rising Sun to 55 mph, if the WisDOT gets a study request they will look into it. Joe will talk to Ivers about the site distance at CTH B.

Joe will follow up with getting an additional lane designation sign put up on Iowa St. in Prairie du Chien, WI.

Commissioner Pelock discussed the St. Wenceslaus Church south end parking lot entrance. The Village of Eastman will be requesting a speed study.

#### **Highway Safety Committee Meeting**

Joe Schneider made a motion to adjourn meeting, seconded by Sheriff McCullick. The next meeting will be held at the Highway Department Conference Room in Seneca on August 4, 2015 at 10:00 a.m.

**Julie Check, Administrative Assistant CCHD**