

Portage County Traffic Safety Commission Meeting Minutes

10:00 a.m., Tuesday, March 5, 2019

Law Enforcement Center Conference Room, Stevens Point, Wisconsin

Members Present: Sgt. Gina Boettcher, VP/Traffic Safety Officer
Daniel Brugman, WisDOT NC Region Traffic Safety Engineer
Rhae Stertz, Secretary of Transportation Rep – Law Enforcement
Don Jankowski, Portage County Safety Officer
Rick Olig, Secretary of Transportation Rep – Highway Safety
Lt. Ryan Fox, Plover Police Department
Nathan Check, County Highway Commissioner
Deputy Joe Mulrooney, TIM Committee Representative
Lt. Josh Ostrowski, Portage County Sheriff's Office
Joe Gemza, Assistant Chief of EMS, SPFD
Al Haga, County Board Chairman
James Williams, Emergency Management Coordinator

Members Absent: Attorney David Ray, County Representative, Law
Chris Holman, County Executive
Jeffrey Schuler, Director, Portage County Planning & Zoning
Scott Rifleman, Portage County Coroner

Members Excused: Christian Budzinski, County Executive Appointment – Education
Sgt. Steve Spath, Stevens Point Police Department
Chief Dep. Daniel Kontos, President/Cty. Hwy. Safety Coordinator

Others Present: Jacob Wills, Portage County Sheriff's Office
Kasia Norgaard, Portage County Sheriff's Office
Jessica Wendorf, Portage County Sheriff's Office
Matt Matucheski, UWSP Student

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Boettcher at 10:00 a.m.

Quorum Call: Introductions as Needed

A quorum of the Traffic Safety Commission (TSC) was present. No roll call was needed.

Approval of December 4, 2018, Meeting Minutes

WisDOT Traffic Safety Engineer Daniel Brugman requested that WisDOT report regarding camera installation was moved to a different section of the minutes. It was agreed to move the report under Traffic Incident Management Operations section. Motion/second by Jankowski/Fox to approve the minutes of December 4, 2018, Traffic Safety Commission Meeting with the above change. Motion carried unanimously.

Public Notice

Vice President Boettcher declared members of the public who wish to address the Committee on specific agenda items must register their request at this time, with such comments subject to the reasonable control of the Commission Vice President as set forth in Robert's Rules of Order.

Correspondence None.

Status of Highway Construction and Safety Projects/Repair Proposals

- State Projects (Brugman):
 - BUS 51 (Hickory to Minnesota) will be starting as soon as the snow is gone. That will finish the northbound lanes and southbound lanes will be constructed this year.
 - STH 66/Main St (Plover River Bridge) – Deck replacement on westbound bridge on STH 66/Main Street over Plover River (west of Country Club Dr.) Westbound traffic will be shifted over to eastbound lanes with single lane for each direction running bidirectional. Speed will be temporarily reduced within work zone (from 40 to 35 mph). Scheduled for May with construction beginning in August/September.
 - Minor improvement to Hwy 10 traffic signals (Brilowski/Hwy 10) – flashing yellow arrows.

- Portage County Highway Department Projects (Check)
 - 2019 Projects
 - CTY. RD. I
 - CTY. RD. F (Cty. Rd. W to Hwy. 73)
 - CTY. RD. Q (Through Amherst Junction)
 - CTY. RD. A – bridge replacement south of HWY 10 this spring

- Municipal Projects
 - No one present.

County Traffic Safety Coordinator Report

Nothing at this time. President Kontos retired.

Crash Spot Map/Law Enforcement Agency Report

- **Portage County Sheriff's Office:** *Traffic Accident Summary Report for 07/01/2018 to 09/30/2018.* Sgt. Gina Boettcher stated there were 235 total accidents, 235 reportable during fourth quarter of 2018. There were 48 personal injury accidents, 1 fatal and 27 property damage accidents. There were 6 hit and run accidents, 2 involving personal injury and 2 involving property damage. There

were 72 people injured and 9 vehicles in accidents involving alcohol. There were 2 fatalities:

- **11/22/18 @ 6:13 PM on US Hwy 10 by Cty Rd. B near Amherst**
 - Two vehicle crash – detailed under “New Business” below.
- **Stevens Point Police Department:** Sgt. Spath excused. Sgt. Boettcher read the report *10/1/2018 to 12/31/2018*. Sgt. Boettcher stated there were 160 accidents during this time period of 2018, 160 reportable. There were 30 personal injury accidents, 0 fatal and 13 property damage accidents. There were 23 hit and run accidents, 3 involving personal injury and 4 involving property damage. There were 34 people injured and 0 people killed, and 6 vehicles in accidents involving alcohol.
- **Village of Plover Police Department:** *Traffic Accident Summary Report for 10/01/2018 to 12/31/2018*. Lt. Ryan Fox stated there were 56 accidents during the fourth quarter of 2018, all reportable. There were 9 personal injury accidents, 0 fatal and 9 property damage accidents. There were 2 hit and run accidents, 1 involving personal injury and 1 involving property damage. There were 9 people injured and 0 people killed, and 1 vehicle in accidents involving alcohol.

WisDOT Traffic Safety Engineer’s Report (Brugman)

- WisDOT Amish Map – WisDOT is checking if signs indicating Amish locations in the area. Also checking if road shoulders need to be wider. The known Amish locations in the area are around Junction City and also Wood County.

Bureau of Transportation Safety Report (Olig)

- **Grants:**
 - Speed Grant: in 2018 out of 7 fatal crashes, only 1 was alcohol related. Speed is the biggest factor in crashes, hence Portage County was targeted for the Speed Grant
 - Click-It-Or-Ticket will run May 20 through June 1 this year. All agencies are required to do mobilizations, as it is part of WISE Grants.
- **Governor’s Conference:**
 - 8/20/19 through 8/22/19 at Glacier Canyon Conference Center at Wilderness Lodge. No agenda items yet.
- **Traffic Safety Commission Coordinator’s Meetings:**
 - Monday, April 29, 2019 – Wilderness Resort in Wisconsin Dells, 10AM-2PM
 - Tuesday, April 30, 2019 – Holiday Inn in Stevens Point, 10AM-2PM
 - These will involve primarily Highway Safety Coordinators and chairs of the Traffic Safety Commissions that will be going over crashes and discussing how to deal with speed

Traffic Safety Legislation (Olig)

- under discussion now, no legislation yet:
 - OWI 1st becoming a criminal conviction
 - Work zone element to Driver's Education

Emergency Medical Services Operations (Gemza)

- Nothing at this time.

Traffic Incident Management (TIM) Operations (Mulrooney)

- In 4th quarter there were 2 TIM team deployments
- Basic TIM Responder course will be held on Thursday, March 7, 2019 at 1:00PM at the Holiday Inn in Stevens Point.

Upcoming Traffic Safety Training Opportunities

- None. Governor's Conference information stated above.

Public Education Programs and Opportunities

- Roundabout Safety Discussion:
 - Brugman:
 - About 6 crashes a month, all non-injury
 - Mostly around Sentry Insurance
 - Info and School Bus Posters available
 - Boettcher:
 - Continue discussion at next meeting

Traffic Safety Grants Update

- Wills: Speed Grant Funding 2019-2020
 - Amount hasn't been determined yet
- Olig: be as detailed about the plan as possible

Locations of Traffic Hazards & Recommended Improvements

- Haga brought up large snowbanks by Hwy 10 that limit visibility. Check advised that Hwy Department will be working on these within a week.

Unfinished Business

- None.

New Business

- Fatal Crash Review (Mulrooney)
 - 11/22/18 @ 6:13 PM on US Hwy 10 by Cty Rd. B near Amherst
 - Weather related, bridge decks were slippery, insufficient tire tread depth on the vehicle at fault (Unit 1), no alcohol involved
 - Unit 1 (Dodge pickup truck) travelling eastbound, pulling a trailer crossed over median and struck Unit 2 (Jeep Cherokee). Driver of Unit 1 killed on

- scene, driver of Unit 2 exported to hospital, died 2 weeks later. Passenger of Unit 2 sustained serious injuries.
- Potential infrastructure issue: no anti-skid compound on the bridge decks where the accident occurred. Also, no guard rail downstream of the bridge (it is standard construction for bridges)
 - Brugman advised that per his conversation with the bridge engineer, the bridge where the accident happened did not have an anti-skid compound, as it was a test bridge. He made a recommendation to the bridge engineer to put the compound on these two bridge decks.
 - Check offered to write an e-mail to DOT requesting that the compound be added to the bridge decks
 - Slide presentation by Mulrooney included photos and diagrams of crash.
- Election of the officers:
- Chief Deputy Kontos retired, hence the President Position is open
 - Motion/second by Jankowski/Gemza to nominate Lt. Joshua Ostrowski as the Traffic Safety Commission President. No other nominations. Vice President Boettcher closed the nominations. Elections conducted, Lt. Joshua Ostrowski elected as a President of the Traffic Safety Commission with a unanimous vote.
- Discussion/possible action (Haga)
- Request for special meeting attendance
 - The reason for this is to unify the way all the committees are conducting their special meetings.

Adjournment

Motion/second by Ostrowski/Fox to adjourn meeting at 10:51 AM. Motion carried unanimously. Next meeting of the Traffic Safety Commission is Tuesday, June 4, 2019, at 10:00 AM in the Law Enforcement Center Training Room at Portage County Sheriff's Office.

Respectfully submitted,
/s/

Kasia Norgaard
Recording Secretary