

KEWAUNEE COUNTY HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMISSION
KEWAUNEE COUNTY COURTHOUSE
613 DODGE STREET
KEWAUNEE, WI 54216

October 24, 2019

PRESENT:	Matt Joski	Sheriff – Kewaunee Co Sheriff’s Dept
	Jason Veese	Lt. – Kewaunee Co Sheriff’s Dept.
	Randy Asman	WI DOT – N/E Region
	Randy Wiessinger	WI DOT – WSP – BOTS
	Jim Kleiman	Kewaunee City Interim Police Chief
	Randy Remiker	Algoma Police Chief
	Cindy Kinnard	Public Health Nurse
	Tracy Nollenberg	Emergency Management Director
	Jeff Wisnicky	Corporation Counsel
	Gary Paape	County Board Representative
	Jeff Kassner	Dworak Bus Service
	Joe Mastalir	Citizen Representative

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by Sheriff Matt Joski.

All members had received a copy of the July 25, 2019 meeting minutes. A motion was made by Lt. Jason Veese and seconded by Jeff Kassner to accept the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

CITIZEN COMMENTS AND REPORTS: No citizens were present at today’s meeting.

REPORTS FROM COMMISSION MEMBERS:

WISCONSIN DEPT OF TRANSPORTATION – ENGINEERING

Randy Asman was present for today’s meeting but had no updates to contribute.

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – BOTS

Randy Wiessinger went over some Kewaunee County crash data from the Community Maps program. Of the accidents in Kewaunee County in 2019, 20 percent of those were teen drivers and 15 percent involved drivers 65 years of age and older. He advised that while these numbers are significant, they are slightly skewed for several reasons. First,

these numbers do not represent those individuals who were at fault in the crashes, only that they were involved. Secondly, there is a larger age range for those drivers 65 years and older than for teen drivers.

Randy also shared with us that Community Maps has new “flags” – one for government property and there is one in the works for ATV crashes. Community Maps has also added a link to Legislative Updates for those who may take an interest. This link and the Legislative Updates are available to the public, as well.

Randy advised that the Drive Sober campaign will also be coming up again over the holiday season.

KEWAUNEE COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Todd Every was not present at today’s meeting but Gary Paape was able to share some notes from Todd that he had received regarding highway department projects.

First, there have been some public comments about the speed through Stangelville and there has been a request to either have increased patrol presence in the area, or to possibly get the speed trailer set up in that area for a while.

The pedestrian crossing signs on CTH AB near St. Paul’s Church/School were installed and operational at the beginning of this past school year. The flashing lights will indicate times when the speed limit is reduced to 35 MPH and/or when pedestrian crossing is taking place.

The fall harvest has begun and there have been several areas throughout the county where there has been mud on the roads. For the most part the farmers are doing a good job of cleaning the roads or taking appropriate measures (communicating with the Townships) to close down the roads when necessary. Sheriff Joski shared some pictures of a manure transfer station which was set up, illegally, on STH 54. He advised again that the Sheriff’s Department is done providing education for the farmers and operations like these, or farmers who fail to properly clean the roads will be receiving citations.

The Luxemburg Casco School District is planning for a Safe Routes to School grant due to all the changes taking place with building and construction of the new school/school additions. Chief Gulbrand was not present at today’s meeting to provide more details.

As far as local highway projects, the CTH FF resurfacing project is complete except for a small section of curbing. The CTH E bridge replacement project should be complete and open to traffic the week of 10/23. CTH E (First St – Ahnapee State Trail) paving will start the week of 10/21. CTH E/River Rd (First St – Miller St) paving will begin when the City’s contractor finishes the utility work. The CTH S bridge replacement project in Algoma is behind schedule due to the wet weather in the county this fall. The bridge deck is starting to be placed and the recent estimates for re-opening is around December 7th.

KEWAUNEE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Sheriff Joski again advised that the Fall Harvest is in full swing in Kewaunee County and with that comes the increase in complaints of mud on the road. He had shared earlier in the meeting the photos of a manure transfer station set up at the intersection of STH 54 and Birch Rd., advising that no flaggers or signage were present. He further went on to say that educating the farmers in the community is finished and citations will now be issued when violations like this are observed. He said for the most part, the farmers are doing what they need to be doing, and at least making an effort despite the very wet conditions to keep the mud cleaned off the roads.

Lt. Veesser advised that due to a complaint made to State Patrol, they will be sending Inspectors to Kewaunee County on a more frequent basis. This provides the opportunity for Sheriff's Department deputies to receive more education on what the most frequent commercial vehicle violations are and how to better spot them so that they aren't always relying on State Patrol to catch offenders. It will also hopefully help keep commercial vehicles running legally on the road so they don't endanger the safety of other motorists.

Lt. Veesser also provided an update on the serious injury accident that occurred at the intersection of CTH AB and CTH S. The State Patrol had conducted a download of the vehicle's computer and learned that the female driver never actually came to a complete stop at the stop sign. The slowest speed reached was 4 MPH. He also spoke briefly about another serious injury accident that occurred just recently at the intersection of Sleepy Hollow Rd and Krok Rd where a passenger car was t-boned by a manure hauler. Lt. Veesser advised that the driver of the car ran the stop sign causing the vehicle to be struck. While at the scene, Lt. Veesser had spoken with the supervisor of the manure hauler company and upon finding out State Patrol would be coming to investigate, this individual expressed his displeasure because "they always find something wrong." This is part of the reason for an increased presence of State Patrol Inspectors in the county.

Lt. Veesser said that Kewaunee County will be receiving a seat belt grant this year. It will run from October 2019 to October 2020, and he will be meeting with Mike Panosh again to get things set up. He anticipates 2-3 extra shifts per week once the program is up and running. Randy Wiessinger advised that while receiving the grant is good, the reason Kewaunee County is receiving it is because the crash numbers involving seat belt use have been high compared to other areas.

Lt. Veesser said as far as the ATV ordinance goes, no citations have been issued yet. This is likely due to the fact that several townships have not yet adopted the ordinance, or they have adopted it but have not yet put up the proper signage.

He advised that OWIs involving drugs are on the increase, but it is unclear whether it is because there are actually more people driving under the influence of drugs rather than alcohol, or if law enforcement officers are getting better at recognizing signs of drug impairment. There was further discussion on the pilot program being done in Manitowoc County using an oral fluids test which works very much like a PBT does for alcohol.

Randy Wiessinger said that the unit is nearly 100% effective in detecting which type of drug is present, but it is not quantitative, and the officer still needs to make sure that there is a valid reason for the stop and that the indications of impairment are there.

Finally, Lt. Veeseer advised that the Sheriff's Department received back the final report on the traffic fatality that occurred on CTH C earlier this year. It did show, as was suspected, that alcohol was a factor in that crash.

ALGOMA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Randy Remiker shared that they have a new speed trailer. It does need a little work, which will be done during the winter months. It is currently parked on Fourth St. and has been working well to slow traffic down. He noted that it is also capable of recording data, as well.

Joe Mastalir took this opportunity to share some concerns he had with the group about the problem of speeding. He had suggestions such as putting up speed signs that capture data, and then trading off displaying the speed feedback to drivers and turning that option off to determine whether the speed signs were effective. Sheriff Joski and Chief Remiker stated that while these speed signs are effective in slowing down traffic, leaving them in one place too long causes complacency. Parking marked squad cars in various locations often has the same effect on slowing traffic, but drivers become complacent to that, as well and it eliminates officer discretion.

Joe also spoke about areas of the country where "red light cameras" are used to cite violators. Chief Remiker stated that while many departments have them, some larger ones have also gotten rid of them due to them being cost-prohibitive. He said the citations are often issued by a third-party vendor and the municipality doesn't even see any of the money from the citations, but rather pays the vendor for these services so it costs money rather than being an income generating service. Additionally, red light cameras are not legal in the state of Wisconsin yet, either, though the City of Milwaukee will be doing a pilot program.

KEWAUNEE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Assistant Chief Kleiman advised that the topic of ATVs in the City of Kewaunee is going to be discussed soon. Other than that, he had no other updates.

Tracy Nollenberg also advised Asst. Chief Kleiman that the stop sign at the intersection of Dodge Street and Center Street was difficult to see, likely due to the changing colors of the leaves. There have been a couple of close calls because of this.

LUXEMBURG VILLAGE POLICE DEPARTMENT

Chief Gulbrand was not present at today's meeting.

COUNTY BOARD REPRESENTATIVE

Gary Paape wanted to share that signs are once again being taken down in the Town of Ahnapee. He said the signposts themselves are just being ripped out of the ground and the sign and post left laying on the ground. Lt. Veesser advised him to keep reporting it so he can get the information out to patrol and investigations.

Gary also advised he has been hearing several complaints from individuals regarding nighttime farming operations, specifically where it involves the roads not being cleaned off at night. While it isn't necessarily a problem during nighttime hours, once traffic starts picking up in the morning the roads become more hazardous.

DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Tracy Nollenberg shared that she has again applied for the Clean Sweep grant for 2020. She will find out in December whether Kewaunee County will receive it. She also advised that all fire departments have now received their Stop the Bleed kits, as well.

She shared that a meeting was recently held with the highway department where it was suggested, primarily during winter months, that a snowplow or other snow removal equipment go with emergency responders from their station to the scene when roads are hazardous. A call would be made to dispatch to determine the road conditions. She said that she feels like the emergency responders were heard, so we will see what develops.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Cindy Kinnard was present at today's meeting and wished to share that the county has a new certified car seat technician, Deanne Schultz. People can call the health department to schedule an appointment or Deanne is also willing to travel to someone's home to assist with car seat installations.

WISCONSIN STATE PATROL

No members of the Wisconsin State Patrol were present at today's meeting.

CORPORATION COUNSEL

Assistant District Attorney Jeff Wisnicky was present but had no updates to share, other than to remind the Townships that the countywide ATV ordinance must be adopted by the Townships in order for enforcement to happen.

SCHOOL BUS TRANSPORTATION

Jeff Kassner was present at today's meeting but had nothing new to share.

CITIZEN REPRESENTATIVE

Joe Mastalir was present at today's meeting but shared his thoughts and concerns earlier in the meeting. See the section for Algoma Police Department.

CRASH SPOT MAPS/ACCIDENT STATISTICS: The Sheriff's Department shared the 3rd Quarter Crash Data and Spot Maps. Discussion followed.

OLD BUSINESS: There was no old business discussed at today's meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, **January 16, 2020** at the **Kewaunee County Sheriff's Department**, at **10:00 AM**.

Motion to adjourn was made by Gary Paape and seconded by Lt. Jason Veaser. Motion carried.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:05 AM.

:ajm