

Minutes of Meeting
Taylor County Traffic Safety Committee
10:00 A.M., December 2, 2008
County Board Room – Courthouse

Call to Order: Vice Chairman Seidl called the regular meeting of the Taylor County Traffic Safety Committee to order at 10:02 AM, December 2, 2008.

Members Present: Jim Seidl, Nick Synol, Bill Daniels, Patti Nelles, Diane Niggemann, Dorothy Falasky, Jeff Olson, Jill Sheithauer, Bruce Kinlen.

Others Present: Karyn Eckert – The Star News

Approve Minutes: There being no errors omissions noted the Chairman declared the minutes approved as published and distributed.

Agenda: There were no additions to the proposed agenda as posted.

Agenda Items: Chairman Seidl reported that he had asked to have the issue of driving distractions placed on the agenda because several municipalities have recently enacted ordinances making such distractions a traffic violation. He indicated his primary interest was in determining if there was a way in which inattentive driving violations could be better identified on accident reports thereby pinpointing the most dangerous distractions. In the event a local ordinance is to be considered at some future date the most dangerous inattentive driving infractions could then be identified as requiring enhanced enforcement. Following discussion, it was agreed to postpone action until a later date.

Reports: Taylor County Traffic Safety Coordinator Nick Synol provided a report on the only fatal traffic accident in the county since the last meeting of the committee. The accident involved a motorcycle and occurred on CTH "E" in the Town of Little Black. Alcohol was involved in the incident.

NW Regional DOT representative Patti Nelles:

- Distributed information on motor vehicle deer crashes in 2007.
- Reported that deer crashes, fatal accidents and traffic fatalities have dropped dramatically during the current year.
- Reported on poor compliance with seat belt use in Wisconsin and cited statistics determining which drivers are the worst offenders.
- Indicated that she was confident that a primary enforcement seat belt law would be introduced in the legislature during the next session.

Jeff Olson – NW Region DOT:

- Reported on TIME Program (Traffic Incident Management Enhancement) training.
- Distributed information concerning Dial 511 (Wisconsin Travel Information), explaining what it is and how to use the service.
- Informed the committee that the Pedestrian Crossing signs on STH 64 in the city of Medford present the wrong wording. They should read Yield rather than Stop for Pedestrians in Crosswalk.

Diane Niggemann – Taylor County Commission on Aging informed the committee that the AARP 55 Alive Driver Training Program was being shortened from eight hours over two day to four hours on one day. The cost has also been increased to \$12 for AARP members and \$14 for nonmembers.

Meeting Schedule: Traffic Safety Committee meetings for CY 2009 are scheduled on:

March 3

June 2

September 1

December 1

Unless otherwise reported, all meetings shall begin at 10:00 AM in the County Board Room of the Taylor County Courthouse.

Adjournment: There being no further business Chairman Seidl declared the meeting adjourned at 10:37 AM, Dec 2, 2008.

Respectfully submitted:

JAMES G. SEIDL
Acting Secretary

Taylor County Traffic Safety Committee

September 2, 2008

3rd Floor Courtroom, Taylor County Courthouse

Call Meeting to Order: Acting Chairman Jim Seidl called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Members Present: Jess Sackmann, Jim Seidl, Ron Bohn, Nick Synol, Patti Nelles, Dorothy Falasky, Diane Niggemann, Jeff Olson, Tim Mason, Bill Daniels, and Jill Scheithauer

Approve Minutes: Motion by Niggemann/Falasky and carried to approve the minutes of the June 3, 2008 meeting.

An election of officers took place. The following officers were elected:

Chairman – Incoming Highway Commissioner

Vice Chairman – Jim Seidl

Secretary – Incoming Highway Commissioner

Taylor County Traffic Safety Coordinator Sergeant Nick Synol reported on two Taylor County traffic fatalities – a one car crash on STH 102 and a car versus pedestrian on STH 13.

Northwest Region Transportation Safety Coordinator Patti Nelles reported statewide traffic fatalities are down from past years. She also presented information regarding seatbelt usage. Jim Seidl proposed drafting a letter regarding enforcement of seatbelt laws and inattentive driving (eating, drinking and cell phone usage, etc.) to be sent to legislators. This will be presented at next meeting.

WISDOT Traffic Engineer Tim Mason announced that this would be his last meeting as he has taken a different job. Jeff Olson from WISDOT will replace him on the committee.

Jeff Olson reported on the T.I.M.E. Program (Traffic Incident Management Enhancement). Future trainings will be announced.

Diane Niggemann from the Taylor County Commission on Aging discussed a study to be conducted on transportation needs in Taylor County.

Jess Sackmann, Interim Highway Commissioner, reported that detours are still in effect due to various projects in Taylor County. He also reported on the increased amount of heavy truck traffic on CTH C and CTH M due to the 30 ton posting on the STH 64 Goodrich bridge.

Next Committee Meeting: December 2, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.

Adjournment: Motion by Bohn/Falasky and carried to adjourn at 10:25 a.m.

Taylor County Traffic Safety Committee

June 3, 2008

3rd Floor Courtroom, Taylor County Courthouse

Call Meeting to Order: Acting Chairman Jess Sackmann called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Members Present: Jess Sackmann, Jill Scheithauer, Dorothy Falasky, Diane Niggemann, Patti Nelles, Nick Synol, Tim Ludwig, and Tim Mason

Approve Minutes: Motion by Niggemann/Falasky and carried to approve the minutes of the March 4, 2008 meeting.

Motion by Falasky/Ludwig and carried to table election of new officers until the next meeting due to lack of attendees.

Taylor County Sheriff Sergeant Nick Synol reported on a car versus deer fatality on County Road E by Perkinstown Avenue on May 23.

Discussion of proposed round-a-bouts in the City of Medford took place. A public informational meeting will be held at the Medford City Hall on June 26, 2008 from 3:30 to 6:30.

WISDOT Traffic Engineer Tim Mason reported on the traffic crash history for State Highway 64 between County Road Q and Gibson Street. There have been 40 crashes which creates a crash rate of 170. The statewide average is 114 for rural areas and 248 for urban areas.

Northwest Region Transportation Safety Coordinator Patti Nelles reported that statewide traffic fatalities are lower this year. She presented information on the Spring Click-It-or-Ticket Program and the Fall Alcohol and Driving Program which will take place around Labor Day. Ms. Nelles also distributed pamphlets on organ donation; warnings for Adopt-A-Highway volunteers regarding drug waste and other hazardous materials; an advisory on the increasing numbers of motorcycles, mopeds, scooters and bicycles expected to be on the road; and laws that were passed and bills that failed in 2007-2008.

Mr. Sackmann questioned the traffic safety history of the intersection of County Roads O and E. Sergeant Synol reported that it hasn't been a problem in the last year.

Next Committee Meeting: September 2, 2008 at 10:00 a.m.

Adjournment: Motion by Niggemann/Falasky and carried to adjourn at 10:40 a.m.

Minutes of Meeting
Taylor County Traffic Safety Committee
March 4, 2008
County Board Room, Taylor County Courthouse

Call Meeting to Order; Acting Chairman Seidl called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

Members Present: Jim Seidl, Dorothy Falasky, Patti Nelles, Tim Mason, Jill Sheithauer, Bruce Kinlen, Nick Synol

Approve Minutes: Motion by Falaksy, second by Kinlen to approve the minutes of the meeting of December 4, 2007. Motion carried unanimously.

Taylor County Traffic Report: Nick Synol reported on one serious traffic accident, which occurred on STH 13 near the south county line. The accident was caused by whiteout from a snowplow blinding the following driver. There were several injured in the accident.

Northwest Region Traffic Report: Patti Nelles distributed several pamphlets that covered:

- Wisconsin Traffic Deaths in 2007.

- Comparison of Traffic Fatalities and Crashes since 1990

- Winter Driving Tips

- 2007-2008 Traffic Safety Legislation Update

- Bicycle Safety Training Information

Each pamphlet was briefly discussed and Ms. Nelles also displayed a Blizzard Bucket Survival Kit for your car, which she had assembled for herself.

Tim Mason reported that he had reviewed the traffic accidents, which occurred on STH 64 west of Medford in the 40 MPH zone. He indicted there were no outstanding locations or exceptionally large amount of accidents in the area and questioned whether the 40 MPH zone should be extended further west.

He also discussed the speed limit on STH 13 in the vicinity of the Wal-Mart that is to be lowered from 45 to 40 MPH.

A brief discussion followed covering the proposed STH improvements planned in Taylor County in the near future.

Other Traffic Safety Issues: It was noted that the snow banks on some city streets are of such size that they obstruct the view at intersections and driveway entrances. It was also reported that because some sidewalks are not being cleared of snow, pedestrians are walking in the streets creating an extremely dangerous condition because of poor visibility. It was questioned why the city does not enforce its ordinance requiring sidewalks to be cleared after snowstorms.

Next Committee Meeting Date: June 3, 2008

Adjournment: There being no further business Acting Chairman Seidl declared the meeting adjourned at 10:37, March 4, 2008.