

**WOOD COUNTY
TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING**

Date: Wednesday December 2, 2020

Time: 10:00 AM

Place: Virtual via WebEx

Present - Lindsey Heineck Wis. DOT, Scott Brehm Wood County Coroner, Joseph Zurfluh Wood County Board Supervisor, Dan Kontos DOT BOTS, Mel Pedersen Grand Rapids Police Department, Quentin Ellis Wood County Sheriff's Department, Bill Clendenning Wood County Board, Ben Nikolai Rescue Personnel, Scott Drew Port Edwards Police Chief, Steve Kreuser Wood County Highway Safety Commissioner, Alexa Acker Wood County Emergency Management

1. Minutes of the September 2020 Traffic Safety Commission Meeting – Motion by Joseph Zurfluh to accept the minutes, second by Quentin Ellis. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Review 3 fatal crash reports – Quentin reviews the fatalities from the third quarter.

V & H – Town of Lincoln August 13, 2020. Double fatal. Vehicle did not stop at the stop sign. Seeing a pattern of this being a problem with crashes.

Branding Iron Ct. – Town of Saratoga August 13, 2020. Failed to negotiate a curve. Possible intoxicants.

Cty Z – Village of Port Edwards August 22, 2020. Double fatal. Clipped an oncoming vehicle. Driver was in an altered state of mind. Crash caused by driver behavior.

3. Report from the Department of Transportation Engineer – Lindsey stated all construction projects are done for Wood County. Explained the changes on Hwy 73 by the Branding iron including adding rumble strips, adding chevrons, and upsized the arrow to assist with fatal crashes. Also reports the speed study on Hwy 54 is still in process. Currently waiting on data for that. It was reported that the sheriff's department was on board with the reduction of speed if needed.

4. Local Program Specialist report – Dan talked about 966 total crashes (down from last year), 15 fatalities (up from last year), 277 injuries (up from last year). Total crashes are down this year but the injuries are more severe, for both county and state. We have almost doubled our 5 year average of fatalities (15). Statewide there were 106,251 crashes (down from last year),

533 fatalities (up from last year), and 28,568 injuries (down from last year). Reported that bike and pedestrian crashes are down but up in severity. Drug and alcohol are about the same as last year, a little bit up if anything. Motorcycle crashes are up significantly, especially in western Wisconsin. Seatbelt usage has dropped in youth. Brings up the question of reaching out to youth about seatbelt importance. Dan informed that the mobilization equipment grants are suspended for the rest of the year and are developing a new plan for 2021. Current traffic safety proposals will be discarded from this year. Tracks (TraCS) is transferring from Windows to Sequel (SQL). Question was brought up by Mel wondering if it is necessary to resend interest for the grant. Dan suggested it would help but is not necessary since the grant was secured in mid-October. Steve asked if the drug and alcohol numbers were broken out between different drugs. Dan said they are not broken out as of right now but could be if needed.

5. Any other business brought properly before the Commission – No business brought properly before the Commission

6. Public Comments – No public comments.

Next meeting date is scheduled for March 3, 2020 at 10:00 AM.

7. Adjournment – Motion by Quentin Ellis to adjourn, second by Mel Pederson. Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes taken by: Alexa Acker – Wood County Emergency Management