

# HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING

**Committee/Board:** HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMISSION

**Date of Meeting:** Thursday, July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023

**Location:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room  
Buffalo County Courthouse - Alma, Wisconsin

Buffalo County Highway Safety Commission members present were:

NAME:	REPRESENTING
Josh Reed	School Districts
Mike Osmond	Sheriff's Office
Dan Kontos	WI DOT
Rick Tumaniec	WI DOT
Jerilyn Baures	Population
Beth Sass	Medical
Kelly Johnston	Highway Department
Lucas Teska	Emergency Management
Jason Bakken	WI State Patrol
Kasondra Serum	Coordinator, Sheriff's Office
Vacant	Alma Police Department

**Others:** In person Carl Kent, Lee Engfer, Ryan Howell

**#1. Call to Order/Roll call :**

Jerilyn Baures called the meeting to order at 1:02pm.

**#2. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:**

Jerilyn Baures made a correction to remove Acting off of Kasondra's job title. Beth Sass made a motion to approve the minutes with the correction, seconded by Rick Tumaniec. Carried.

**#3. Citizen concerns on posted Agenda items : None**

**#4. Citizen concerns on non-posted Agenda items:**

Lee Engfer advised that there is an address with a sign that is too bright, the Dot is working with him to get it taken care of.

**#5. Sheriff Osmond - Sheriff's Office update:**

Sheriff Osmond introduced Sergeant Ryan Howell, who is in charge of the traffic grants. He advised that Ryan was going to start coming to the meetings. Sheriff Osmond brought up the traffic lights in the south end of the County by Winona, there has been 2 accidents there in 3 days. The lights were changed to have flashing yellow lights and he was wondering if

we can change it back to the way they were. Kelly Johnston from Highway advised that he will make a phone call. Sheriff Osmond also brought up how we have to call someone from the State when the lights get flipped when there is an accident, he asked Kelly since we already need to call him if he could just call them. Kelly said he could do that. Sheriff Osmond discussed his article in the Winona paper about not changing how traffic is run in that area. Rick Tumaniec asked if it could be confusing to people. Osmond advised that the last party that was involved in an accident there was from Minnesota so it could be possible.

#### **#6. Emergency Management Report:**

Lucas advised he is still working on the traffic incident class. Jason Bakken asked about the class in Durand, Lucas advised he is signed up for the class. Jason asked if he let the Sheriff's office about it and he couldn't remember due to it being about 4 months ago, he is going to resend it.

#### **#7. Highway Department Update:**

Kelly advised that Cty Rd C construction is complete. **County Rd H is about ½ way done.** County Rd F culverts have been started. Chip Seal for State, County, Townships will begin the week of August 21<sup>st</sup>. State Highway 95 resurface is complete. State Highway 35 bridges are complete. The lower bridge is open and they are working on opening the other 2, possibly within the next few days. State Highway 37 bridge by the Highway shop is in the process. State mowing is complete other than behind some guardrails. State Highway 35 (Pepin Dike Road) the State will be deck patching next week. The State will also be deck sealing bridges the first week of August.

#### **#8. Dan Kontos-DOT update:**

Dan Kontos explained that year to date we have had a total of 87 crashes. The second quarter statewide crashes with a total of 51,956 in 2023. The second quarter crash flags were speed was 31.7%, Aggressive 12.2%, and distracted was 4.9%. Lane Departure with 1 unit was at 36.6% and lane departures with 2 units was at 12.2% and intersection/related was at 9.6%. 2023 second quarter impaired drivers were at 9.6%. In the second quarter there were no pedestrian and bicycle crashes. Dan discussed that when Officers fill out the DT4000 they are pushing for them to make contributing factors. Speed Awareness Day is July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Dan went over dates to watch in quarter 3. July is Vehicle theft prevention month.

#### **#9. Rick Tumaniec-DOT update:**

Advised that Kelly hit all of his construction updates.

#### **#10. Jeri Baures-Population update :**

Jeri advised that she appreciated the road updates on the Sheriff's Office Facebook page.

#### **#11. Josh Reed-Education update:**

Josh Reed explained that school will be starting up again soon. They will be working on enforcing bus safety. Josh also advised that he took over the drivers ed class. Trooper Brunner came in last year and did a presentation for the class, and he would like that to continue.

**#12. Jason Bakken -WSP update:**

Jason Bakken explained they closed the application process they had open for 4 months. They had about 220 applications that were successfully completed. They just finished a class and 17 graduated and they wanted 50. Speed awareness is next Wednesday. They are working with the Sheriff's Office with the Botts grant. Ashley for the Arts is coming up and they will be doing OWI enforcement.

**#13. Beth Sass - Medical update:** None

**Next meeting :** The next meeting is set for October 19<sup>th</sup> at 1pm.

**#14. Adjournment:**

Kelly Johnston made a motion to adjourn at 2:00 pm, seconded by Rick Tumaniec. Carried.

Respectfully submitted:

---

Kasondra Serum, Coordinator