

**MANITOWOC COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMISSION**

January 15, 2019

Manitowoc County Sheriff's Office

**Present:** Rick Olig, Julie Reimer, Mike Polich, Scott Nelson, Jason Orth, Robert Barbier, Dan Hartwig, Dan Diedrich, John Kropp, Brian Nack, Rick Wolfe, and Holly Herzog.

Also Present: James Falkowski, Manitowoc County Board

**Call to Order:** Meeting called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chairman Jason Orth.

**Minutes:** Motion to approve the minutes as submitted by Julie Reimer, second by Mike Polich; motion carried.

**Public Input:** James Falkowski stated a petition has been submitted by local residents to the Traffic Safety Commission regarding CORD R from Zander Rd. to STHY 147. Residents feel the speed should be lowered from 55 mph to 45 mph to increase safety.

Jason Orth pointed out that this has been discussed at length. Steps have also been taken to evaluate the area and improve safety including a speed study by the WI State Patrol. The crash history does not support the lowering of the speed limit, and the Highway Commissioner reviewed the area and updated signage. WI State Patrol troopers also visited businesses in the area in an effort to educate truck drivers using this route.

Scott Nelson stated that WI State Statutes have fixed speed limits set for highways in Wisconsin which are based on research and documentation. Local jurisdictions can reduce speeds up to 10 mph if supported by a speed study. Jurisdictions cannot follow petitions as this may create unreasonable limits that are not voluntarily compiled with and defy driver expectations. Lowering the limit in this area could have negative consequences. The Highway Commissioner was contacted prior to the meeting and he stated he would not take action solely on the petition, but would accept the recommendation of the Traffic Safety Commission.

Motion by Sgt. Dan Diedrich to take no action on this request, second by Rick Wolfe; motion carried.

**Site Evaluations:**

Village of Maribel - Review Speed Limit on CORD Z from I43 to CORD T:

At the last meeting it was decided to continue to monitor this situation. Since that meeting there have been 3 car deer accidents and one property damage accident. The property damage accident occurred when an out-of-state driver hit a post while turning onto I43 which resulted in a non-reportable accident. No other issues were noted in this area. One of the trucking companies has operated in this area for some time and the other is currently improving their property.

Motion by Julie Reimer to take no action on this request, second by Rick Wolfe; motion carried.

**DOT Update Report from WI DOT-BOTS Representative:** Rick Olig reported that Manitowoc County had 6 (7) fatal crashes resulting in 8 (9) deaths in 2018. Of the reportable non-deer crashes 17% involved teen drivers which is low compared to other counties. Speed and seatbelts violations were involved in 12% of the crashes and alcohol was involved in 5%.

The mobilizations for Drive Sober had good participation over the holidays. It is very easy to participate with one press release before the event announcing participation and one press release after summarizing the deployment. A report must be filed which enters participating agencies into a drawing for a traffic safety grant. One out of every three agency receives a \$4,000 grant. You can win up to three times a year. The next mobilization is over Memorial Day.

The Governor's Conference is August 20 – 22, 2019 in Wisconsin Dells.

**Recent Fatalities:** On 09/10/18 an accident occurred on STHY 42 in which a 71 YOA female was injured. This individual has since died within the 30 days following the crash. The semi driver involved was tested for alcohol and drugs with none found. He was cooperative.

On 12/16/18 an individual fleeing officers crashed into a truck on STHY 147 at Crystal Springs Road. The driver of the truck was killed. This crash is under investigation and will be reconstructed.

On 12/26/18 a vehicle gradually drove into the median on I43 and rolled down an embankment causing fatal injury to the front seat passenger. The operator stated a deer struck her vehicle, but she may have also fallen asleep. This crash is under investigation and will be reconstructed.

On 01/10/19 a vehicle being operated by a 15 year driver lost control on a curve causing the rear seat passenger to be ejected from the vehicle suffering fatal injury. This crash is currently under investigation as a deputy attempted to stop the vehicle shortly before the crash. Alcohol may have been involved. This crash is under investigation and will be reconstructed.

**Other Business:** Robert Hermann and Gregg Schetter have retired. Daniel Hartwig was elected as the new Sheriff for Manitowoc County and Brian Nack has been appointed Chief Deputy. Motion by Sgt. Dan Diedrich to appoint Daniel Hartwig to replace Robert Hermann and Brian Nack as alternate for Daniel Hartwig replacing Gregg Schetter, second by Rick Wolfe; motion carried. Introductions were made.

**Next Meeting:** April 16, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. at the Manitowoc County Sheriff's Office.

A motion to adjourn at 10:33 am by John Kropp, second Julie Reimer; motion carried.

Submitted by: Holly Herzog, Secretary