

HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING

Committee/Board: HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMISSION

Date of Meeting: Thursday, January 14, 2021

Location: 3rd Floor Conference Room
Buffalo County Courthouse - Alma, Wisconsin

Buffalo County Highway Safety Commission members present were:

NAME:	REPRESENTING
Josh Reed	School Districts
Mike Schmidtknecht and Lee Engfer	Sheriff's Office
Dan Kontos	WI DOT-LE Liaison
Rick Tumaniec-VIRTUAL	WI DOT
Jerilyn Baures	Population
Norita Willadsen-VIRTUAL	Nurse
Kelly Johnston/Bob Platteter-NO APPEARANCE	Highway Department
Bruce Fuerbringer	Emergency Management
Sgt. Dean Haigh	WI State Patrol
Melissa Brunner	Coordinator, Sheriff's Office
Mike Johnson	Alma Police Department

Ms. Baures called the meeting to order at 1:04pm.

Public: Tom Brakke appeared to get an idea of what is discussed at this committee's meetings.

Minutes: Mr. Haigh made a motion to approve previous minutes, second by Mr. Fuerbringer. Motion carried.

Sheriff Schmidtknecht: Reported no major recent accidents. The county's OWI's are up from 2020. Mr. Engfer reported that there are still visibility issues for parking on Highway 35 south of Dairyland Power-the overflow from Great River Harbor Road parking. Mr. Tumaniec thinks that signage should be left up all year-round. He would need to draft a no parking declaration, at least 75'.

Bruce Fuerbringer: The Covid-19 vaccine rollout has been his top priority. 1A category people are in the process of receiving their first shot, the 1B group will be rolling out shortly. He advised the committee that he is now the director for Emergency Management, as Mr. Steve Schiffli has returned to the county but in another role.

Dan Kontos: Reported that there were 248 total crashes in Buffalo County for 2020, 4 fatalities, and 61 crashes with injury. He reports that Buffalo County law enforcement agencies are doing a great job at reporting crashes accurately, crashes mapped at 99.6%. The state has been looking into the predictive analytics for the county based upon the previous five-year period of crash

data. This information may be used by law enforcement to aid them in where to patrol to help deter potential poor driving behaviors.

Rick Tumaniec: Nothing currently scheduled for Buffalo County for 2021.

Jerilyn Baures: Nothing new for the committee at this time.

Josh Reed: Thanked the county for connecting with Mr. Tom Brakke regarding road closures as it pertained to the school district.

Sgt. Dean Haigh: There has been an increase of fatalities. In 2019 the WSP had 575 contacts with speeds of 100+ MPH, in 2020 those contacts have just about doubled at 1,379. Even though there was less traffic in 2020, fatality crashes increased.

Norita Willadsen: Nothing new to report beyond status of the Covid vaccine rollout.

Next meeting to be held April 15, 2021 at 1:00pm.

Sheriff Schmidtknecht made a motion to adjourn at 1:43pm, second by Mr. Tumaniec.

Respectfully submitted:

Melissa Brunner, Coordinator