

**Price County Traffic Safety Commission
Meeting Minutes**

Date: June 3, 2021

Time: 1:00 p.m.

Place: Courthouse County Board Room 101; 126 Cherry St; Phillips, WI 54555

Meeting called to order at 1:00 pm by Dennis Wartgow, Commission Chairperson.

Roll Call: Present: Gerry Baier (WDOT Engineer) (1:22 p.m.), Joe Baratka (Price County Highway Department), Kyle Dudek (Wisconsin State Patrol), Bruce Marshall (Attorney/Legal), Jason McMillan (Phillips School District), Brian Roush (Price County Sheriff's Department), Dennis Wartgow (Price County Board Supervisor), Randy Wiessinger (Bureau of Transportation Safety)

Excused: Joshua Englund (Marshfield Clinic), Jerry Ernst (Park Falls Police Department), Gayle Stangle (Citizen Member)

Items for discussion and possible action:

1. Public Comment and Communication: Jon Pesko, representing Forward Bank discussed the potential traffic issues that may arise from the planned construction of the new bank building at the corner of State Highway 13 and County Road F. Also, increased traffic with the expansion of the Phillips School District building project.
 2. Meeting Minutes – March 4, 2021: Motion Baratka/Roush to approve the minutes from the March 4, 2021 meeting as presented. Motion carried.
 3. Accidents Report: Brian Roush provided data on Price County traffic accidents for the first quarter. Down from 2021.
 4. Town of Lake – Speed and Safety Concerns: Joe Baratka – The town was provided with the information about doing a speed study and have not heard back. Have also received speed concerns from Town of Fifield.
 5. Law Enforcement Reports:
 - a. Price County Sheriff's Department (Brian Roush): Providing various speed studies for Highway Department.
 - b. Park Falls Police Department: Written report from Jerry Ernst. Rerouting traffic with summer infrastructure projects.
 - c. Phillips Police Department: None.
 - d. US Forest Service: None.
 - e. Wisconsin State Patrol (Kyle Dudek): Area Click It or Ticket campaign successful. Status of a trooper for weight inspections still unknown.
 6. Wisconsin Department of Transportation
 - a. Bureau of Transportation Safety – Law Enforcement Liaison (Randy Wiessinger): Fatalities trending down, although motorcycle fatalities are increasing. Several legislative issues. Updates available on the website. Working with DNR to map ATV/UTV accidents. Usage and accidents have increased. Seeing increased accidents on road routes.
 - b. Traffic Safety Engineer (Gerry Baier): County Highway C Douglas Bridge project to be completed by end of June. County Highway A Jump River Bridge project to start June 17th. 2022 will have two bridge projects in Park Falls area and one in Phillips. State Highway 13 project in Phillips scheduled for 2023. Retaining wall issue on State Highway 182 in Park Falls still unsettled.
 7. School Transportation Reports:
 - a. Chequamegon School District: None.
 - b. Phillips School District (Jason McMillan): Issue of drivers running through flashing red on stopped busses. Working on traffic congestion with school expansion project.
 - c. Prentice School District: None.
 8. Other Reports:
 - a. Attorney/Legal (Bruce Marshall): Question of warning light on State Highway 111 and State Highway 13. Highway Department will check on it.
 - b. Citizen Member: None.
 - c. Marshfield Clinic: None.
 - d. Price County Board of Supervisors (Dennis Wartgow): City of Park Falls infrastructure plan in hospital area.
 - e. Price County Highway Department (Joe Baratka): Focusing on Price County Road Safety Plan. Should have update ready later in year. Looking at other areas of improving safety. Kwik Trip bypass lane to be completed by July 4th. Weekly meetings on bridge projects. Doing PSAs to keep public informed on lane and road closures and other road projects. Mowing will start soon.
 9. Date of Next Meeting – September 2, 2021
 10. Meeting adjourned at 1:43 p.m.
- Respectfully submitted: Jean Gottwald, County Clerk