

## Price County Traffic Safety Commission Meeting Minutes

Date: September 2, 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), Joe Baratka (Price County Highway Department), Kyle Dudek (Wisconsin State Patrol), Jerry Ernst (Park Falls Police Department), 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). Remotely: Joshua Englund (Marshfield Clinic). Absent: Harold Herbst (Chequamegon School District), Gayle Stangle (Citizen Member)

Items for discussion and possible action:

1. Public Comment and Communication
2. Meeting Minutes – June 3, 2021: Motion Baratka/Roush to approve the minutes of the June 3, 2021 meeting as presented. Motion carried.
3. Price County Local Road Safety Plan (Joe Baratka and Eric Howell from NWRPC): Price County received funding from Federal Highway Administration for developing a safety plan. Will gather data regarding areas of improving road safety in the county. Priscilla Tobias from Arora and Associates is aiding in gathering and compiling data. TCC will need to be stakeholders in the process providing input and advice. Three main areas: low-cost efforts (signage, striping), incorporating into road maintenance projects and public outreach (Driver's Ed Class).
4. Accidents Report (Brian Roush): One fatality; 5 major crashes; 11 minor crashes; 5 possible injury crashes. 7 alcohol related, 14 teen drivers, 24 older population. 26 deer crashes. Discussion of ATV/UTV speeding on County Highway E. Possible additional signage. DOT issued a permit to a resident to allow ATV/UTV travel on State Highway 111 for an afternoon poker run. Law Enforcement was not informed in advance.
5. Law Enforcement Reports:
  - a. Price County Sheriff's Department (Brian Roush): Patrol Lieutenant resigned. Department is short one deputy. Speed board being utilized. Areas of confusion on speeds on town roads that cross municipal lines and if posted speed limits are authorized.
  - b. Park Falls Police Department (Jerry Ernst): Work continues on utility and road work in hospital area. Complaints of speeding, especially on freshly paved roads. Flambeau 40 Bike Race had permits for road usage approved.
  - c. Phillips Police Department: None.
  - d. US Forest Service: None.
  - e. Wisconsin State Patrol (Kyle Dudek): Remain at one deputy for Price County. Large number of seat belt violations. OWI initiative in September.
6. Wisconsin Department of Transportation
  - a. Bureau of Transportation Safety – Law Enforcement Liaison (Randy Wiessinger): Crash statistics. State fatality trending above average. Price County is trending down. 50% of county accidents are alcohol or drug related. Teen and drivers over 60 are target ages.
  - b. Traffic Safety Engineer (Gerry Baier): Flashing stop sign on State Highway 111 fixed. Kwik Trip shoulder paving will take place this fall. 2021 bridge projects completed: County Highways A and C. 2022 bridge projects: Flambeau River bridges in Fifield and Park Falls, Elk River bridge north of Phillips and Highway 8 railroad bridge east of Prentice. 2022 road projects: Highway 13 Fifield to Park Falls and Park Falls north and Highway 13 County Highway A south. Some of the work for the illegal retaining wall in Park Falls is being taken care of.
7. School Transportation Reports:
  - a. Chequamegon School District: None.
  - b. Phillips School District (Jason McMillan): School started Monday. Congestion issues when school lets out.
  - c. Prentice School District: None.
8. Other Reports:
  - a. Attorney/Legal (Bruce Marshall): Reminded the group that any town speed limits would be town issues even though the roads are patrolled by the County.
  - b. Citizen Member: None.
  - c. Marshfield Clinic (Joshua Englund): Signing routes to hospital with street construction. Seeing increase in ambulance traffic.
  - d. Price County Board of Supervisors (Dennis Wartgow): Nothing more.

- e. Price County Highway Department (Joe Baratka): Dirt Devil ATV/UTV club requested a bridge crossing for a section of State Highway 70. DOT engineer determined that the plan does not meet statutory definition. The Highway and Transportation Committee turned down the request. Summer projects are coming to an end. Highway A and C bridges are complete. Doing prep work for next year's projects (culvert replacements). Spray patching being done which leaves loose gravel on roadways.

9. Date of Next Meeting – December 2, 2021.

10. Meeting adjourned at 2:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Jean Gottwald, County Clerk