

# HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMISSION MEETING

**Committee/Board:** HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMISSION

**Date of Meeting:** Thursday, October 20, 2022

**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 Schmidtknecht	Sheriff's Office
Dan Kontos	WI DOT
Rick Tumaniec	WI DOT
Jerilyn Baures	Population
Beth Sass-EXCUSED	Medical
Kelly Johnston	Highway Department
Lucas Teska	Emergency Management
Jason Bakken	WI State Patrol
Kasondra Serum	Coordinator, Sheriff's Office
Mike Johnson-EXCUSED	Alma Police Department

**Others:** Mike Osmond, Carl Kent

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

Jerilyn Baures called the meeting to order at 1:00pm.

**#2. Approval of April Minutes:**

Motion to approve draft minutes by Jason Bakken, second by Kelly Johnston.

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

**#4. Citizen concerns on non-posted Agenda items:** None

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

Sheriff Schmidtknecht advised he no longer has a Chief Deputy due to Lee taking the Courthouse administrator position. He advised that Lee can still respond to emergent calls until the end of October. Sheriff Schmidtknecht also advised he will be losing his Detective Mike Osmond and he will be the next Sheriff. Alma just hired a new chief and he is in training his name is Aarik Lackershire.

## **6. Sheriff Schmidtknecht-Fatality Accident**

Sheriff Schmidtknecht advised on August 10<sup>th</sup> south of 88 on Hy 35 there was a fatality. The vehicle had a mom, dad and their daughter in it. 2 people had life threatening injures which was the mom and daughter and the dad did not make it. He stated that they are working with the DA's office and the family is not happy with just the citation. They would like to see criminal charges pursued.

## **#7 Chief Johnson- Discuss Riverview Road 's one Lane travel issue with the DOT update:**

Rick Tumaniec advised that he spoke to maintenance and they reached out to Linda and they are working out a solution. He will update us when he has more information.

## **#8. Emergency Management Report:**

Lucas Teska stated that he worked with highway, and some of the highway workers wanted him to bring up having a way to communicate with law enforcement when they are doing traffic control. Sheriff Schmidtknecht advised that when the deputies are out they are on their portables and they can't change the channel. Kelly advised that he is usually always out there and he has a radio to communicate. Sheriff Schmidtknecht advised that we could give them a list of the Deputy's phone number and they could contact them by cell phone but they would have to keep the number confidential. Best resource for this would be to call the Dispatch to have any message relayed.

## **#9. Highway Department Update:**

Kelly advised that state is all done besides maintenance, and the county is almost done. He stated that the bridges are done except County Road HH.

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

Dan Kontos advised that the power point data is correct as of yesterday. In the PowerPoint is showed we are at 141 total crashes this year, 2 fatalities and crashes are down from last year. 21% of crashes are due to speed, 16% are due to deer, 12% are from distracted drivers, and 9% are from aggressive drivers.

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

Rick advised that state is done for the year, that was all of the information he had.

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

Jeri told Kelly from highway that they are doing a really good job they have been working hard. She brought up highway 37 and how nice that is.

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

Josh said that the roads are nice. He also brought up teaching as much as we can of bus safety to young drivers.

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

WSP had nothing for the agenda.

**#15. Beth Sass - Medical update:** Excused.

Josh Reed mentioned that they teamed up with law enforcement and did a mock crash and they received a lot of good feedback and they did it homecoming week. He stated that due to weather the helicopter was not able to come.

**#16.** Next meeting is set for January 19<sup>th</sup> at 1pm.

Sheriff Schmidtknecht made a motion for adjournment, second by Kelly Johnston.  
Adjournment at 1:45pm.

Respectfully submitted:

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— Kasondra Serum, Acting  
Coordinator

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