

TRAFFIC SAFETY BOARD
Friday, December 13, 2019
10:00 a.m.
Conference Room D
Steuben County Annex Building
Bath, New York

****MINUTES****

PRESENT: Chief Chad Mullen, Bath Village Police Department
Sheriff James Allard, Steuben County Sheriff's Office
Christopher Brewer, Deputy County Manager
Amy Dlugos, Director, Steuben County Planning Department
Martin Butler, New York State Department of Transportation
Sgt. Sweet, New York State Police
Trooper Blencou, New York State Police
Steve Catherman, Steuben County Public Works Department
Carol A. Ferratella, Steuben County Legislator, District 13

OTHERS: Geoffrey Grimsman

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chief Mullen called the meeting to order. Due to the fact that no quorum was present, no official actions will be taken.

II. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Traffic Safety Board has been scheduled for Friday, March 27, 2020, at 10:00 a.m. and will be held in Conference Room D located in the Steuben County Annex Building.

III. CORRESPONDENCE

A. **Town of Wayland** – Chief Mullen informed the committee that a request was received from the Town of Wayland to reduce the speed limit on CR 91 between State Route 63 and the 30 mile per hour sign on CR 91, along with letters from NYSDOT acknowledging receipt of the request, along with the results of studies completed on CR 91 and Michigan Road. Mr. Butler acknowledged that both of these studies have been completed and we have approved a 45 mile per hour limit in both areas.

IV. DEPARTMENT/AGENCY/MEMBERSHIP REPORTS

A. Sheriff's Office

- Sheriff Allard informed the board that the STOP DWI Plan has been sent out and adopted.
- Sheriff Allard stated he recently presented at the State Highway Safety on Rural Roads meeting and discussed the use of Traffic Safety Boards and rural road safety. He also presented to Erie County about the collaborative efforts we do with the wineglass marathon and that was also well received.
- Sheriff Allard announced the STOP car is here now and will be staffed by Josh VanSkiver. Next year, we will have another STOP car which will be staffed by Matt Butler who is a DRE as well as K-9 handler.

B. Public Works Department

- Mr. Catherman informed the board that projects have been completed for the season and all roads and bridges are open. They are busy getting ready for next year's construction season.

- Sheriff Allard stated he received a call from a resident on Whiskey Creek Road/CR 34 about ice coming across the road from another residents driveway. Mr. Catherman stated they have worked in the past to put grates in so that it will not drain onto the road. They will look into this again.

C. New York State Department of Transportation

- Mr. Butler informed the board that he believes all construction jobs have been shut down for the winter. We have numerous projects scheduled for next year including:
 - Bath Sidewalk Project – bids came in high and we are rebidding.
 - Bridge/Culvert Repair – SR 248 at Bennetts Creek
 - Bridge Replacement – I86 Cohocton River Tributary in Bath
 - Hammondsport – Loughline Creek – we are replacing the bridge and will be putting up a detour bridge and a temporary traffic signal. We will also be extending the sidewalk from the school up to that location and will include a new crosswalk.
 - Glen Cove culvert repair on SR 54A and several more projects. We are in the process of identifying where the bad slopes, retaining walls and culverts are.
- Chief Mullen asked are you doing a sidewalk project in Canisteo on SR 36? Mr. Bulter replied he believes that project will be in 2021; new pavement and sidewalk.

D. Planning Department

- Mrs. Dlugos stated she had nothing to report.

E. Legislature

- Mrs. Ferratella asked for an update on Goff Road and SR 352. Mr. Butler stated we are dealing with permitting for the new Dandy Mini Mart. We have asked them to design a raised median so that will eliminate the left “in” and that should be a big improvement.

F. New York State Police

- Sgt. Sweet reported they are doing their underage drinking initiative. The details will be somewhere in the County and we will be checking points of sale locations. We will also be conducting a DWI detail sometime in the future.

G. Bath Police Department

- Chief Mullen informed the committee they have put in a new crosswalk at the Library.

V. NEW BUSINESS

A. *Traffic Concern at Pulteney Street at CR 76 (Hammondsport)* – Chief Mullen stated Geoffrey Grimsman has asked for a few minutes to briefly talk about his concerns relative to speed on Pulteney Street at the CR 76 intersection in the Village of Hammondsport.

Mr. Grimsman submitted for the record, a letter which details his concerns regarding speed on Pulteney Street at the CR 76 intersection. He also included a copy of a letter he submitted on September 28, 2018. He noted a traffic study was done in June and he assumes this study was done by NYSDOT. One of his requests in the past is for the County to purchase a covert speed and traffic counting device, but apparently only NYSDOT has this equipment. The study that was done was limited to only two, one-hour periods which resulted in a total of 78 vehicles. He did reach out to Albany and got seven other assorted area traffic studies which ranged from 62 to 108 hours total each. Mr. Grimsman commented if these two hours of data are an acceptable baseline to work from to generate the NYSDOT concluded recommendation to increase the speed limit within the village line, then it is reasonable to extend the data at through through seven twelve-hour cycles to obtain a very conservative weekly total to establish that this village street 30 mph speed zone is unsupervised and dangerous. With this extended data, that would equate to almost 9,000 vehicles speeding over 50 mph in a year, this problem is beyond epidemic.

Chief Mullen asked what are you asking of this board? Mr. Grimsman replied there needs to be enforcement in this area and the village is not doing it. This is quality of life issue to have that much traffic speeding and passing on double solid lines in a blind rise. The risk is there; please help.

Mr. Butler commented that he can speak to the study that was done. A speed study is what we did with hand-held radar; that is a standard study and we had been asked to do that by the village. We do these studies for all roads, no just State roads. It is up to the village whether they accept the results of the study. Mr. Grimsman commented the village retained the 30 mph. Mr. Butler explained the speed study identifies the 85th percentile speed. This is designed to identify what the prudent driver would be comfortable driving. That is as far as we go with that. We are not involved in enforcement or anything else. He stated generally there are disagreements because everyone wants the speed slower in front of their homes. Mr. Butler explained the State has a process they go through and it is a federally accepted standard. On this particular stretch of road, the 85th percentile is 43 mph. We chose a conservative limit of 40 mph.

Sheriff Allard stated we have done several traffic details on that section of roadway. To Mr. Butler's point, even with us doing enforcement, it did not change the mean speed. Chief Mullen commented the New York State Police have also done enforcement in this area.

Mr. Grimsman stated it is unfortunate and it is a simple thing. The thing that needs to be understood is that there is plenty of time for acceleration and deceleration. This is very treacherous. Chief Mullen stated it looks like every agency is doing what you are asking. We have had multiple conversations here at these meetings about this. The County is 1,400 square miles and we are going multiple places all over. He does not know what we could do more. Mr. Grimsman stated if it was a possibility, you could pull over and sit for just a few minutes. He thinks it is a consciousness thing. He would be willing to suggest that the drivers are repeat and by and large the tourists are the most well-behaved. He does what he can, but he would offer up the idea of obtaining this speed/count device. These devices have gotten better and better and he believes the County could gain a lot of benefit from having one.

Mr. Butler commented traffic cameras are becoming more prevalent and we have them on a rotated schedule. He stated we do not rotate them every year, but believes it is every three years. Sheriff Allard explained when we do traffic enforcement on this section of road, we are doing it above, or on the main road, so you may not see the enforcement patrol. Sgt. Sweet stated he will send out an email for the troopers to also stop in and patrol.

Chief Mullen adjourned the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted by

Amanda L. Chapman
Deputy Clerk
Steuben County Legislature