

STEBEN COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY BOARD

Friday, June 26, 2020

10:00 a.m.

South Conference Room

Steuben County Office Building

Bath, New York

****MINUTES****

PRESENT: Chief Chad Mullen, Bath Village Police Department
Sheriff James Allard, Steuben County Sheriff's Office
Sgt. James Feeley, New York State Police
Carol Ferratella, Steuben County Legislator, District 13
Christopher Brewer, Deputy County Manager
Amy Dlugos, Director, Steuben County Planning Department
Steve Catherman, Steuben County Public Works Department
Lorelei Wagner, Public Health Educator, Steuben County Public Health & Nursing Services
Tim Marshall, Director, Office of Emergency Management
Martin Butler, New York State Department of Transportation

OTHERS: Frederick G. Potter, Steuben County Legislator, District 10
Maureen Kozakiewicz, Highway Safety Representative, Governor's Traffic Safety Committee

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chief Mullen called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: APPROVING THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 13, 2019, MEETING MADE BY MRS. FERRATELLA. SECONDED BY MR. MARSHALL AND DULY CARRIED.

III. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting has been scheduled for Friday, September 25, 2020, and will be held in Conference Rooms C and D in the Annex Office Building.

IV. CORRESPONDENCE

Chief Mullen stated no correspondence has been received.

V. DEPARTMENT/AGENCY/MEMBERSHIP REPORTS

A. Emergency Management Office

- Mr. Marshall stated they have been busy with COVID for the last three months.
- Mr. Marshall stated they are looking at trying to restart their training programs. They received approval from the NYS Office of Fire Prevention and Control to restart their programs. He is working with the Sheriff to get the Fire Police course started in August or September if we can.
- They have not done a lot of work with traffic safety as they have been, and continue to be deeply involved in COVID and supporting Public Health.

B. Public Works

- Mr. Catherman stated the Public Works Department has been busy working on projects. They have completed work on Hurlburt Street in Arkport, but that is not yet open to traffic.

- CR 66 Bridge Over the Canisteo River Project is an off-site detour and the bridge is closed. We have a temporary traffic sign on SR 36 which is working pretty well. There was an accident yesterday caused by an elderly gentleman who did not yield the right of way as he ran the red light.
- They are working on the CR 119 Bridge Over the Canisteo River in Cameron and they are using the existing bridge which is open to traffic.

C. Planning

- Mrs. Dlugos stated she had nothing to report.

D. Public Health

- Ms. Wagner stated they have been very busy working with COVID.

E. Sheriff's Office

- Sheriff Allard stated we have our new radar trailer up and running and we have used it on CR 17 and CR 333. This is a much smaller trailer and operates via Bluetooth. This trailer produces graphs and other useable information that will be helpful for Public Works. This trailer will be used all summer long and will be placed in a new location each week.
- He stated with the Wineglass Marathon he has not heard what the plans are yet. There have been several discussions on whether to move forward with it virtually or with an alternative plan.

Mr. Marshall stated that he has heard that they have gone to a virtual event. They will give individuals the month of October to complete and also give them discounts off next years' race. They have cancelled the event.

- Sheriff Allard stated the Steuben County Fair will be held on one day, just for animals; they may just do harnessing racing. Plans are still being made.
- Sheriff Allard announced DWI's are up this year. We have received a State Farm Grant for a DWI educational trailer. This will be similar to the Amy Stock trailer that is out in the Albany area. Our plan is to use the vehicle from the four-fatality accident on CR 76 in Pulteney a year ago. We will also use the 911 tapes and victim impact statements as part of the video/audio loop. This trailer will be taken to the schools as a further deterrent for impacted or intoxicated driving. The Amy Stock trailer is very powerful and we are looking to replicate that for this half of the State. The Undersheriff did a great job getting the grant. We are currently working through the legal process and hope to have it up and running soon. Our DWI's are up and we have had 10 in the last 7 days. Chief Mullen asked have you seen an uptick in driving while impaired by drugs? Sheriff Allard replied yes and we have seen an increase in driving while under the influence of Marijuana.

F. New York State Police

- Sgt. Feeley stated through the course of yesterday and today we are undergoing a staffing change with transfers coming and going.
- Our traffic safety plan initiatives have not been on track because of the coronavirus and other demands. We trying to get those back on track. We are waiting to see what the civil unrest brings as well as coronavirus protocols.

G. New York State Department of Transportation

- Mr. Butler stated with the coronavirus our staff has been working virtually; the entire region and State has been working from home. This has worked quite well. Our staff our getting their work done and we are now back to 25 percent staffing now. We are not sure when we will be able to go to 50 percent. Our regional office is already small and now we are seeing a loss of staff.
- Traffic levels have really reduced. There was a group out of Albany that was looking at that and sending reports. We got down to 50 percent of levels from last year during the peak of the shutdown and those levels are back up now.

- There are many projects occurring in the County. We have been working on maintenance projects which include thin overlays. There are numerous pedestrian cleanup projects locations; these are locations that need sidewalks placed and connected to crosswalks, etc.
- We have been working on the slides on SR 54A which is just incredible. The road keeps sliding into the lake. We have a temporary traffic signal in two locations.
- Paving work on I86 between Exit 43 to Riverside. This is a nighttime project.
- There is a bridge project in the Town of Bath; this goes over a tributary to the Cohocton River.
- Mr. Butler stated with the sidewalk project in Bath, we did get bids and the price was way over the estimated price and we cut the project down. We will break the components out and rebid it. There is a lot of sidewalk work in Bath, as well as crossing work.
- We continue to do culvert work, retaining walls, etc.

Mr. Marshall asked with the Bath project, I noticed there were new bases by Keller Avenue. Is that just a pedestrian crossing light at the intersection of Keller and Washington? The bases look like those that you would use for a traffic light. Are these going to be the flashing pedestrian lights? Mr. Butler replied with our pedestrian safety action plan, we have a two year contract that was started last year and we are running into difficulties with the contractor in the field, statewide. We have 17 different contracts around the State for PSAP signal and sign work. This contractor is extremely over extended. It is becoming apparent that this contractor might not get the work done. He explained with some of this work, literally, the streets are torn up. The contractor has two or three crews that go around the State; each crew has their own task. We don't know what we will get by the end of October, which is when the contract is supposed to be completed. Right now we are at 12 percent completion. We are riding herd as best we can.

Mr. Martin stated in response to Mr. Marshall's question, that is a pedestrian pole and an RFB (Rapid Flash Beacon) will be installed at that location. In the Corning-Painted Post School District, they had a second child hit by a car and we have installed four RFB's at four locations at Denison Parkway. Sheriff Allard commented that is a dangerous crossing area and the RFB's needed to happen. Mr. Butler stated that work was in addition to the PSAP contract.

Mrs. Ferratella asked with the Dandy Mini Mart on CR 64, are you starting the Goff Road reconstruction? Mr. Butler replied a highway permit has been issued and it is up to them when they get started on that.

H. Bath Police Department

- Chief Mullen stated other than being down manpower, everything is status quo.

I. Governor's Traffic Safety Committee

- Ms. Kozakiewicz stated I would like to thank all of our law enforcement partners in the room for their work during these trying times; thank you. I also want to thank the first responders and health care workers; that you, your work is appreciated.
- We are in the middle of our grant review and we are seeing a record number of grants. She asked when the agencies get their grants to give her a call.
- For the 2020 grant period, we just went through the normal BUNY (Buckle Up New York) period, and many agencies did not participate because of COVID and civil unrest. The funds have been moved from BUNY to the regular PTS (Police Traffic Services) and can be used for the purchase of PPE (Personal Protective Equipment), but only for enforcement grants or enforcement work. Please call before you purchase PPE to clarify what you are doing.
- Ms. Kozakiewicz stated we are seeing a lot of grants being stopped. If you have an emergent issue in your district that was not addressed pre-COVID, we may need to make a modification.
- Click It or Ticket has been moved we may not see that again until next year. There will be a 4th of July enforcement.

- With the PSAP (Pedestrian Safety Action Plan), on our website, www.trafficsafety.ny.gov, you can find free material to do awareness and education. Whoever may want to do education awareness, once the engineering is done, you can write that into a grant.
- DWI's are up and we are seeing a lot of impairment and unprecedented speeds on the roadways in this area. Albany County is seeing vehicle miles traveled increasing and traffic congestion is starting again.
- Ms. Kozakiewicz stated I am glad to hear about the education trailer and how can we incorporate that into what is going on in the County. She asked with impaired arrests going up, how are you doing with DRE's (Drug Recognition Experts)?

Sheriff Allard replied we have two DRE's. Sgt. Feeley stated we lost one. Sheriff Allard stated I have been advocating for an Advanced ARIDE (Advanced Roadside Impaired Driving Enforcement) instead of DRE. It is a huge investment and it is a difficult program to get through. It is definitely an investment to support. We have been asking DCJS for the past five years about a certification for ARID. Chief Mullen asked can we host a training down here? Sheriff Allard replied we can host one. Sgt. Feeley commented we have two officers signed up for ARIDE at Niagara.

- Ms. Kozakiewicz stated when we no longer are travel restricted, she will be back on the road again. Please call if you need help with your grants.

MOTION: TO ADJOURN MADE BY SHERIFF ALLARD, SECONDED BY MR. MARSHALL AND DULY CARRIED.

Respectfully Submitted by

Amanda L. Chapman
Deputy Clerk
Steuben County Legislature