

Price County Traffic Safety Commission Meeting Minutes

Date: March 3, 2022 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), Bruce Marshall (Attorney/Legal), Jason McMillan (Phillips School District), Brian Roush (Price County Sheriff's Department) Dennis Wartgow (Price County Board Supervisor), and Randy Wiessinger (Bureau of Transportation Safety). Excused: Joshua Englund (Marshfield Clinic), Jerry Ernst (Park Falls Police Department), Gayle Stangle (Citizen Member). Absent: Harold Herbst (Chequamegon School District).

Items for discussion and possible action:

1. Public Comment and Communication: None.
2. Meeting Minutes – December 2, 2021: Motion Baratka/Marshall to approve the minutes of the December 2, 2021 meeting as presented. Motion carried.
3. Price County Local Road Safety Plan (Joe Baratka): Joe presented information from the meetings that have been held. This is a pilot program on the county level. Have partnered with the USDOT Federal Highway Administration. Emphasis areas are lane departure, speeding, impaired driving, young drivers. Goal is to save lives and reduce serious injuries. A proactive approach to crashes, instead of reactive.
4. Accidents Report – Brian Roush: 38 crashes with eight injuries, no deaths.
5. Law Enforcement Reports:
 - a. Price County Sheriff's Department – Brian Roush: Nothing more to report.
 - b. Park Falls Police Department: None.
 - c. Phillips Police Department: None.
 - d. US Forest Service: None.
 - e. Wisconsin State Patrol - Kyle Dudek: Trooper Kent is leaving Price County. No candidates currently available. 1,000 traffic stops last year.
6. Wisconsin Department of Transportation
 - a. Bureau of Transportation Safety: Randy Wiessinger – Law Enforcement Liaison: Reviewed crash data. Up 17% from last year. Updated guidelines. Study the different aspects of crashes: engineering, enforcement. Promoting community outreach. Fatal Visions – opioid and marijuana simulator. Buckle Up / Phone Down. Drive Sober or get pulled over. Click it or ticket. PSAs available.
 - b. Traffic Safety Engineer – Gerry Baier: 2022 road projects: Highway 13 - 5th St N north to Ashland County. Highway 13 - Walnut Street in Fifield north to North Fork Flambeau River. Highway 13 - Taylor County Line north to County Highway A. 2022 bridges projects: Railroad Highway 8 east of Prentice, North Fork Flambeau River Highway 13 south of Park Falls, South Fork Flambeau River Highway 13 south of Fifield, Elk River Highway 13 north end of Phillips. Several other bridge projects just outside county lines. Highway 13 project through Phillips in 2024.
7. School Transportation Reports:
 - a. Chequamegon School District: None.
 - b. Phillips School District (Jason McMillan): Nothing to report.
 - c. Prentice School District: None.
8. Other Reports:
 - a. Attorney/Legal (Bruce Marshall): Nothing to report.
 - b. Citizen Member: None.
 - c. Marshfield Clinic: None.
 - d. Price County Board of Supervisors (Dennis Wartgow): Nothing to report.
 - e. Price County Highway Department (Joe Baratka): Lining culverts on County Road W. Paving sections of County Roads I, M, N, F pending funding.
9. Date of Next Meeting – June 2, 2022
10. Meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Jean Gottwald, County Clerk