

**Price County Traffic Safety Commission
Meeting Minutes**

Date: March 4, 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), Jason McMillan (Phillips School District), Dennis Wartgow (Price County Board Supervisor), Randy Wiessinger (Bureau of Transportation Safety). Excused: Joshua Englund (Marshfield Clinic), Jerry Ernst (Park Falls Police Department), Brian Roush (Price County Sheriff's Department). Absent: Harold Herbst (Chequamegon School District), Bruce Marshall (Attorney/Legal), Gayle Stangle (Citizen Member)
Jean reviewed process for those attending remotely.

Items for discussion and possible action:

1. Public Comment and Communication: None.
2. Meeting Minutes – March 5, 2020: Motion Baratka/Wartgow to approve the minutes of the March 5, 2020 meeting as presented. Motion carried.
3. Accidents Report (Randy Wiessinger): Three fatalities in 2020, two were motorcycle. Discussed dynamics of the roads and signage. Other accident numbers were comparable to 2019.
4. Town of Lake – Speed and Safety Concerns: David Wagner and Ed Kane present from Town of Lake. Questions on what the process is to reduce speed limits on town roads. Will need to define what roads are involved, what the statutory postings are and what speed(s) they are requesting. Will need to do a speed study.
5. Law Enforcement Reports:
 - a. Price County Sheriff's Department: None.
 - b. Park Falls Police Department: None.
 - c. Phillips Police Department: None.
 - d. US Forest Service: None.
 - e. Wisconsin State Patrol (Kyle Dudek): One trooper is assigned to each county in district. Having difficulty finding candidates that want to live in northern Wisconsin.
6. Wisconsin Department of Transportation
 - a. Bureau of Transportation Safety – Law Enforcement Liaison (Randy Wiessinger): State accident numbers have increased, especially fatalities. Reviewed legislative topics.
 - b. Traffic Safety Engineer (Gerry Baier): Reviewed upcoming projects. 2021 – County A and County C bridges. 2022 – State Highway 13 – north and south of Park Falls. Bridge repairs – State Highway 13, North and South Fork of Flambeau River and Elk River Bridges, US Highway 8 railroad bridge. State Highway 13 through Phillips should be moved up to fall of 2022. Need to finalize project timelines. 511 is kept updated with road closures due to projects and accidents.
7. School Transportation Reports:
 - a. Chequamegon School District: None.
 - b. Phillips School District (Jason McMillan): None.
 - c. Prentice School District: None.
8. Other Reports:
 - a. Attorney/Legal: None.
 - b. Citizen Member: None.
 - c. Marshfield Clinic Health System: None.
 - d. Price County Board of Supervisors (Dennis Wartgow): None.
 - a. Price County Highway Department (Joe Baratka): Accident on County Road E prompted resident to request a no-passing lane. Could not justify a no-passing zone, but did post blind driveway signs. Speed studies done on sections of County Highways H and B. Weight limits posting on March 8th at 9am. Concern regarding turns into the Phillips Kwik Trip. An engineering design study will be done by Kwik Trip with possible paving of a portion of the shoulder. DOT is working on determining direction for an illegal retaining wall on State Highway 182 in Park Falls.
9. Date of Next Meeting – June 3, 2021
10. Meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted: Jean Gottwald, County Clerk