

# Lafayette County Highway Safety Meeting

June 16, 2016 – 10:00 A.M.

*Lafayette County Highway Department*

**Attendance:** Tom Jean - Lafayette County Highway Department  
Lisa Borne, Lafayette County Highway Department  
Dwayne Larson - Lafayette County Board Representative  
Reg Gill – Lafayette County Sheriff  
Troy Loeffelholz – Chief Deputy – Lafayette County Sheriff’s Dept.  
Ryan Mayer-WI DOT Traffic Safety Engineer  
Bob Bott – WisDOT/BOTS  
Annie Timmerman – Lafayette County Health Dept  
Sydney Jacobs – Edgewood College intern  
Kendra Gates – Edgewood College intern  
Jason King – Darlington Police Dept.  
Aaron Lancaster – Darlington School District  
Gerald Heimann – Lafayette County Trails Commission

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Tom Jean

The agenda was properly posted at the Lafayette County Courthouse, Darlington Municipal Building, Lafayette County Highway Department and the county website.

Motion by D. Larson, 2nd by R. Gill to approve the minutes from March 17, 2016 meeting. Motion carried.

## **COMMENTS FROM DOT SAFETY ENGINEER – Ryan Mayer**

Ryan reported that DOT had looked at the intersection of STH’s 11 and 78 south of the Village of Gratiot. There were no reports of crashes at the intersection, just one of a parked vehicle being hit, and one with a semi turning left on STH 11. If there was an improvement project already in place then the intersection could be improved, but not with Highway Safety funds.

Crashes at the intersection of STH 11 and CTH O in Shullsburg were studied. There have been nine crashes since 2009; two involving semis and four where the southbound vehicles failed to yield to the westbound traffic. The vision problem is due to too many utilities at that intersection. Ryan passed the concerns on at DOT, but that position is currently vacant. The bridge on CTH O will be replaced in 2017, so it would be a good time to widen that intersection at that time.

The DOT will be painting the “no passing zones” on Highway 11 in the Village of Benton due to safety concerns near White Road intersection. There will be a speed study done through there for informational purposes only.

There is nothing new on the STH 23 construction project through Darlington. Jason King mentioned that the bridge has a lot of cracks underneath. Tom informed him that that bridge gets inspected every year.

## **COMMENTS FROM BUREAU OF TRANSPORTATION SAFETY & DOT – Bob Bott**

Bob reported (and gave handouts) that fatalities are up 2.5% from this time last year; deaths are up 7.3% with the highest being passengers in vehicles due to low seatbelt use; the five-year average for fatalities is up; and cell phone use in construction sites is a big concern. There is a 21 page report of statistics in Lafayette County which will be reviewed at the next meeting. If anyone is interested the Governor’s Conference is in Green Bay August 23-25.

## **Sheriff’s Department – Reg Gill (for Theresa Burgess)**

Sheriff Reg Gill, filling in for Theresa, handed out accident crash data and deer crash data. April accidents were down and May was up. There were lots of car versus deer and spread throughout the county, but no fatalities. At their last meeting the county-wide Deer Advisory Committee decided to maintain the number of deer herds in the county.

### **Sheriff's Department – Reg Gill**

Reg informed the group that the DOT has extended the ATV route in Blanchardville to 500 feet on STH 78. They may add or adopt ordinances which incorporate ATV's, such as seatbelt use, etc. Police Chief Jason King expressed his concerns with the roads (and not just the trails) being open for ATV use, especially with the drinking and driving, or open intoxicants. 100% of the stops involve drunk driving while on the ATV's. This was not the intention of having the trails. Reg also reminded everyone that even though the townships say the trail is open, they are not legally open until the proper signage is up. Some people are putting car tires on their ATV's and once you do that, the laws change and the ATV's are considered a vehicle, so drunk driving then is different than on an ATV where it is just a ticket. People need to be better educated of the laws.

### **ATV routes**

Gerald Heimann representing the Trails Commission had two route requests. 1) CTH N from South Wayne north. It is currently open to Philippine Road, and they would like it open to Five Corners on CTH N so people can get to Wiota and Fayette via Spring Brook Road. 2) CTH F (from the north) – open from Furnace Hill into Darlington so they can access the trail in Darlington. Jason reminded everyone that this is already being done, but if it is a problem in the future, it can also be “undone”. Again, the trail is not legal until the proper signs are up. Reg felt any route request should be approved (and added to the map) only once per year, otherwise it gets too costly. Motion by R. Gill to approve both routes, second by D. Larson, motion carried. Heimann will take this motion to the full County Board for approval, and then to the ATV Club.

### **State and County Highway Project Updates and Concerns – Tom Jean**

Project Updates:

- Two bridges in the county have been completed: 1) South Galena Road Bridge in the Town of Benton, and 2) Gant Road Bridge in the Town of Fayette.
- We put new shoulders on STH 11 from Shullsburg to the Grant County line, and STH 78 from Gratiot to the State line.
- We crackfilled STH 11 from STH 23 to the west end of Shullsburg as a PBM.
- We have about 90-100 miles of sealcoating to do in July, which may cost about \$2500 less per mile than last year due to cheaper oil prices.
- We hope to get the reconstruction of CTH G between Fayette and Argyle finished this year.
- We currently have five bridges in the Local Program for replacement: CTH O north of Shullsburg will be done in 2017; CTH U north of STH 11, and CTH I south of New Diggings will be built in 2018; Bethel Grove Road near Lake Joy, and Holland Road west of Darlington will also be built in 2018. The retaining wall project on STH 81 by the fairgrounds along with the reconstruction of STH 78 will be done in 2017.
- Tom met with Mike Reynolds yesterday to look at the wooden bridge in Wayne Township which has a sufficiency rating in the 20's. We are looking at building the road across the trail and not replacing the bridge.

Motion by D. Larson, second by R. Mayer to adjourn. Motion carried.

**Next meeting: *September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016 - 10:00 am @ the Highway Dept.***

Respectively Submitted, Lisa Borne