



APPROVED

Town of Plaistow - Highway Safety Committee
145 Main Street, Plaistow, NH 03865

PLAISTOW HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES

MEETING DAT- Tuesday, January 13, 2009

PRESENT- Chief Stephen Savage, *Chairman*; Chief John McArdle, *Vice-Chairman*; Dan Garlington, *Highway Department Supervisor*; Michael Dorman, *Building Inspector*; Leigh Komornick, *Town Planner*; and Lisa Withee, *Citizens Representative*,

EXCUSED- Dan Travaglini, *Citizens Representative* and Larry Gil, *Selectmen Representative*

ABSENT- Dan Poliquin, *Selectmen Alternate Representative*; Sean Fitzgerald, *Town Manager*; and Ernie Sheltry, *Citizens Representative*

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER- 1:20 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT-

No public present.

NEW BUSINESS -

Chief Savage states he has three grants that the Police Department has written and pending with the NH Highway Safety Agency. One is for Red Light Enforcement for \$4,245.80 in overtime. Second is DWI Enforcement Patrols for the same amount of money. The third is for Enforcement Patrols for speed all around Town and is for the same amount of money also. They are each for 15/6 hour shifts. However, the numbers could increase, so all three grants could total approximately \$12,000 - \$15,000 in overtime.

Chief Savage motions for acceptance of all three grants.

L. Komornick seconds the motion. None Opposed. All in favor.

Chief Savage mentioned a fourth grant pending and how it does not need to come before the Committee since it is not a Highway Safety Agency Grant. He states that it is an OHRV Grant because of problems like Dan is having over at the landfill and the damage the OHRVs are doing all across town. Says that all the grants are ongoing except for the Red Light Running Grant, which is a new grant this year due to the ton of red light running on the roads.

APPROVED

OLD BUSINESS -

Continue Discussion of Prioritization of Dangerous Intersection List

Chief knows it is ongoing from the last meeting and that it has sort of stalled because we'd prefer to have a corridor study before rushing to judgment of which ones are the most or least dangerous intersections.

M. Dorman asked if there was any money left for the corridor study.

L. Komornick said the full amount was taken out and now it is at \$5,500 for the corridor study.

Chief Savage suggests if nobody objects, to hold off on the list until such time we have a Warrant Article or otherwise on the corridor study because that is suppose to assist us in establishing the list.

L. Komornick states that we have in writing from the last set of minutes that we had the three intersections listed.

D. Garlington believes the minutes state we weren't interested in putting a list together until a corridor study was done.

L. Komornick states she has been referencing the Highway Safety Committees records to three intersections when she talks about the corridor study and the fact that the Highway Safety Committee started the list and it was based on accidents.

Chief Savage states it was a combination of things such as accidents, personal knowledge, near misses, and opinions. In some cases it is valid and other cases thinks people will want to see data such as the study. We all know that Elm and Main is a dangerous intersection, the Pines, Chandler, North, and Westville. Some of the others such as King Shaw and Main probably have very little data. Says we need to be able to identify the ones that are dangerous and have supporting document showing this.

M. Dorman says that this is the way we can get the State to do something about the intersections since they are State roads. Also, says that there is a petition out right now trying to make Main Street a Town road so the Town can take control and decide where stops signs go.

D. Garlington said it is a lot money to take over that road.

L. Komornick states you still need to get funds to fix the intersections.

D. Garlington states it is a lot to accept roads and there are other ways to control traffic.

APPROVED

OLD BUSINESS -

Proposal of Warrant Article for a Corridor Study from North Ave to Main St/Rte 125 by Sanborn's Candies

Chief Savage jumped down to the proposal for a Warrant Article and asked Leigh for the status.

L. Komornick states that it is no longer a Warrant Article and it is now in the budget. Originally it was \$8,800 but the Town manager has cut it to \$5,500. It is still enough money that we can probably convince Rockingham Planning Commission that it could be a match.

Chief Savage says the Town Manager might be thinking the Wal-Mart project, if you need more money that may be the piece or they could fund the entire study.

L. Komornick states that is very clear based on the meeting in Concord with Wal-Mart represents and DOT that the State would be looking at them to do a corridor study from North Avenue to Danville Road. Believes we have plenty of backing but she thinks that the Warrant Article will fail for re-zoning and then they will have to apply for a variance.

M. Dorman states that if Wal-Mart doesn't go on that land something else will.

L. Komornick states she is hearing a lot of negative comments on Wal-Mart right now.

Chief Savage states that one way or another the corridor study will get done irrespective of what goes on that 19 acre parcel. We still have the issue of dangerous intersections. We just need to hope that there is enough money for Rockingham Planning Commission to do the study.

L. Komornick states that \$5,500 is still in the budget for this. Worried that if it went to Warrant Article it might not have passed. Anticipates after the budget is approved she can have Dave come in and give information to hand out about the study.

Chief Savage asked if Wal-Mart doesn't get the houses, is it a deal breaker for Wal-Mart.

M. Dorman doesn't believe it will be a deal breaker; they would just have to maybe resize their store.

L. Komornick agrees.

OLD BUSINESS -

Placing "No Left Turn" signs on Rte 125 at the light at Westville Road and the end of the median strip by Ethan Allen Furniture

Chief Savage states if you recall Ernie said cars were making left hand turns at areas that are dangerous.

M. Dorman states that they are currently allowed at the locations.

APPROVED

Chief Savage agrees that they are allowed because it is not signed otherwise. Would like to pursue this more but was hoping Ernie would be at the meeting. States he is not opposed to contacting the DOT and asking them to consider a prohibition to that. Seen a couple scary left hand turns when they stop in the left hand land to make the left turn.

M. Dorman states that some of the longer trucks, at East Road by Dunkin Donuts, which has permitted left hand turns, aren't safely making left hand turns because you either have to drive on the sidewalk or back up into the traffic to complete the turn.

Chief McArdle says people make left hand turns because they want to go to Chandler Avenue or to the bank.

Chief Savage says he has no crash data on it but there are a lot of near misses.

L. Komornick asks whether these locations have a middle lane to allow you to do this.

Chief Savage states there is no pocket or turn lane.

D. Garlington says all that has happened is that the issue of Chandler Avenue and Rte 125 has been moved up a little. That when you do have a crash from somebody making a left hand turn it is going to be a t-bone and it will not be good.

L. Komornick has seen many close calls by the area of Ethan Allen Furniture and the Subway Plaza.

Chief Savage said the history behind that area is businesses such as Reds went to the Executive Council at the time and was heard through the DOT to eliminate the median for 400 - 500 yards, despite of all our recommendations to put a median up for the entire area. He has seen people go south in the north bound lane and cut over when they could. He is not opposed to contacting DOT and telling them to put up signs prohibiting those turns and maybe start the discussion with them for a curb elevated median in that area. States that he doesn't have any crash data yet.

Chief McArdle doesn't have crash data for that specific location.

D. Garlington recalls one that has happened already.

L. Komornick asked if we collect the data will they evaluate it.

Chief Savage said they will evaluate it. That they appeased the politics knowing full well there would be issues and he told them to expect him to revisit the issue and will probably do that in writing. Would prefer not to hold it over to another meeting if the Committee has no objection will send the letter, copy the file, and talk about it at the next meeting.

L. Komornick states she is sure they are probably expecting it.

APPROVED

MINUTES-

Chief Savage would like to accept the minutes of the last meeting.

Chief McArdle motioned to accept the minutes.

L. Komornick seconds the motion. None opposed. All are in favor.

NEW BUSINESS-

Chief asked if anybody had new business.

L. Withee said she has the same complaint, it hasn't changed. The snow makes it worse right now. People still speed down Sweethill Road, but now their windows and such are covered in ice or snow.

Chief Savage asked if anyone had any other business.

No other business.

ADJOURNMENT-

Motion to adjourn by D. Garlington.

Chief McArdle seconded the motion. None opposed. All approved.

Meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

NEXT MEETING DATE – 2:00 p.m. on a Tuesday to be determined.

Respectfully submitted,
Sarah E. Gibbs
Recording Secretary