

MINUTES

January 17, 2007

PRESENT: M. James, A. Peabody, Sheriff G. Jarvis, C. Ballard, R. McDougall, M. Bogart, E. Olin

ABSENT: M. Davison, W. Dashnaw, L. Moore, Cpt. Chauvin, Lt. Polniak

Allan Peabody called the meeting to order. Sheriff Jarvis made the motion to approve the minutes of the October, 2006 meeting, seconded by Mike Bogart.

TRAFFIC SAFETY GRANT UPDATE (2006-2007)

Michele reported (Mary is out sick today):

- *Just received our STEP Grant. Requested \$14,948 to be shared among 4 police agencies and were granted \$12, 551. Radar equipment funded by the grant has already been ordered for Norwood and Norfolk PD's.*
- *2006 Fatalities – 13 (unofficial): 2 involved running red light, 1-weather conditions, 2-speed, 2-alcohol/speed, 1-pedestrian, 2-failure to yield ROW, 1-animal/motorcycle, 1-inattention, 1-tires left roadway/overcorrected.*
- *Created a long-term display at Community Bank in Canton to coincide with an auto-related promotion.*
- *Forwarded a press release to the Office for the Aging for their newsletter providing information about Halloween Safety for motorists and caregivers.*
- *Provided the DMV with 310 Teen Packets and 228 Parent Packets.*
- *Bike/helmet safety presentations were made at Potsdam Elementary School on October 12 & 26; printed information given to teachers & staff and about 15 blinking lights for teachers to give students who need extra visibility.*
- *Issued press releases to local media for Operation Safe Stop; 11 state troopers participated in the detail. No tickets were written for passing a stopped school bus; 3 tickets written for other V&T violations.*
- *Provided information for senior drivers to the Office for the Aging and to 55-Alive Instructors.*
- *Created a fold-out display on winter driving for the EAP Fair held at the Psych. Center. Gave handouts on “winter car kits” and winter driving brochures.*
- *Initiated discussions with the Sheriff and Massena PD regarding the STOPPED Program. Massena has expressed a desire to participate in the program, and the Sheriff is willing to open the program to one local PD for the time-being.*
- *Sent letters to schools regarding our educational resources, parent programs we offer, pedestrian and booster seat programs.*

- *Judy Olin of Liberty Partnership requested traffic safety programs on teen driving at Heuvelton and Lisbon Schools for Grades 9-12. Mary and Michele made presentations at both schools on 'How to Lose Your License' and other teen driving issues and also advertised the 'Save Your Friend's Life Over the Air Waves' contest.*
- *For each bike helmet we give out in our NYSDOH distribution program, we provide a packet of educational materials about bike, wheel sport, and helmet safety/care. We plan to contact the schools one by one to distribute the helmets. On November 8th, we distributed 8 helmets to children at St. Mary's School in Canton.*
- *Received car seats from NYSDOH for distribution. Michele and Mary attended a CPS refresher class in Plattsburgh on January 5th.*
- *The next Buckle Up New York (BUNY) Initiative will be May 21 – June 3, 2007.*

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Sheriff Jarvis reported that his department has received over \$12,000 in overtime funds from the Sheriffs' Association for traffic safety, i.e. speed and alcohol enforcement.

NEW YORK STATE POLICE

No report given.

NYSDOT

Ernie Olin:

- *Handed out "Safe Winter Driving Tips" brochures and gave Michele a generous supply. Craig suggested leaving them in the Post Offices around the County. Everyone agreed with the idea, and the Traffic Safety Office will see to it.*
- *Reported the DOT is planning a public information meeting on January 18th for an upcoming Village of Canton project involving East and West Main Street and Route 11.*
- *With the late onset of winter, Ernie reports the DOT has saved quite a bit of money in salt usage and overtime.*
- *A light plant has been obtained for their operations in case it is needed during nighttime hours, and they also have two more article message signs for the County.*

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

No report given by Bill Dashnaw today. Mike Bogart informed the Board:

- *The Highway Superintendents' Association will hold a breakfast meeting at McCarthy's on March 28th at 9 a.m. and any interested Board member is welcome to attend.*
- *There are reoccurring problems with respect to snowplow equipment and drivers on the road. People just don't realize the hazard. They often don't allow the snowplow operator enough room on the center of the road. People are also putting snow back out into the road either by plowing across the road or snow blowing it back into the road. There is a major liability factor there. Ernie's DOT brochures touch base with that. Ernie says the DOT has other brochures that address this, and it is actually against the law to push snow back into the road. There are also brochures that discuss mailbox issues. Mike feels maybe we can educate the public by leaving the brochures at the Post Offices.*
- *Another ongoing problem is cars in the roadway. Villages have laws that prohibit this between certain hours. In Morristown, Mike has notices put on the cars twice, then he*

starts calling the Sheriff for tickets to be written. Allan suggested press releases in the papers and radio announcements to help educate the public.

- *Mike reports that all the Town Barns in the County are in the process of being inspected and written up for any safety violations. Corrections are being made. No one has been fined yet to his knowledge. The buildings are gradually coming into compliance with safety issues.*
- *The Morristown Highway Department is holding their annual banquet on January 27th, and invitations have gone out for that event.*

STOP-DWI

Michele noted as of January 16, 2007, St. Lawrence County has 18 DWI Misdemeanors and 3 Felony Arrests this year. At the end of 2006, we had 512 DWI Misdemeanors and 80 Felonies.

Enforcement

- *4th Quarter Arrest Reports for 2006 by Police Agencies and T-SLED Arrests as of 11/06 were passed out.*

Public Information

- *Radio spots on drinking and driving as well as newspaper articles have been released*
- *NYS STOP-DWI Association held their 25th Anniversary celebration on November 13th at the Crown Plaza Hotel in Albany*
- *Presentations were given at Edwards-Knox School (3 Middle School and 1 High School Health Class, 1 Parent Program)*
- *Provided brochures to the Ogdensburg PD*
- *DWI Mock Crash Meeting to be held at OFA on January 18, 2007*

Administration

- *In process of preparing the STOP-DWI 4th Quarter Revenue and Expenditure Report*
- *Michele attended the executive/regional meeting of the STOP-DWI Coordinators' Association in Hawthorne, NY November 29-30.*
- *One individual completed Michele's Victim Impact Panel Program for court compliance.*
- *Our 2007 STOP-DWI Plan was mailed to Albany.*

ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS

Allan called for the election of new officers to the Traffic Safety Board. Nominations were made and votes taken. Sheriff Jarvis is the new Chairman of the Traffic Safety Board, and Dick McDougall is the Vice-Chairman.

OTHER CONCERNS

Sheriff Jarvis mentioned the County's EMS people are being trained on the new computer system, and Craig could better speak to that. Craig added that EMS has been under an upgrade with CAD (Computer-Aided Dispatch) and a mapping device to be used with it, so the dispatchers can get away from having to do a lot of note-taking, stamping of time cards, etc. As units are dispatched into the field, the computer automatically tracks where they are, what

their status is, and keeps an ongoing record of when they are called, when they arrive on the scene, when they are back in service, etc.

Craig also mentioned they have received notification of approval on another Homeland Security Grant, which they will be working on with the Sheriff's Department. With the monies they have both received, they will be replacing the transmission tower on Kimball Hill on the other side of Russell.

The Sheriff noted his department will have laptops installed in their vehicles, giving them access to the internet with necessary data at hand. The equipment has been purchased, and they are waiting to have the installation done. The State Police already have the equipment in their cars and can record data and print tickets. The Sheriff's Department's laptops are a little different in that they only retrieve data.

The Sheriff's Department also has a new piece of equipment given to them by the State, a license plate reader. The Sheriff explained that the unit is placed on the police vehicle and is able to focus and read license plate numbers on incoming/going vehicles and can give the deputy information regarding lapse of insurance, no registration, suspension/revocation of driver's license, etc. It is infrared and works as well day or night. One unit costs approximately \$23,000.

The meeting was adjourned, and the next meeting is tentatively scheduled for April 18, 2007 at 3:00 p.m. in Canton.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Kim Hayes
Recording Secretary*

