

MINUTES

April 18, 2007

PRESENT: M. James, M. Davison, R. McDougall, Sheriff G. Jarvis, Undersheriff K. Wells, C. Ballard, E. Olin, Cpt. D. Chauvin, W. Dashnaw

ABSENT: A. Peabody, L. Moore, Lt. D. Polniak

Sheriff Jarvis called the meeting to order. Craig Ballard noted a correction which needed to be made in the January, 2007 minutes on page 3 under "Other Concerns". Computer Agent Dispatch should read Computer-Aided Dispatch. A motion to approve the minutes was then made by Dick McDougall, seconded by Cpt. Chauvin.

TRAFFIC SAFETY ACTIVITIES

Mary reported:

- *Joined the District Attorney in putting out a letter to all schools regarding verifiers (used to detect tampering with driver's licenses), available information on websites, teen driving brochures and videos, etc. (Michele handed out copies of the letter to Board members)*
- *Sent information on car seats to MOMS Programs, the Prenatal/Perinatal Council, and Gouverneur Family Resource Center*
- *Developed PSA's for parents and teens to advertise on YES-FM and all Martz radio stations*
- *Published a newsletter containing some prom and car seat information (handouts)*
- *Working on helmet distribution program in coordination with NYSDOH; distributed 42 helmets at Brasher Falls Elementary School with information for parents along with individual fitting*
- *Gave 3 presentations at Gingerbread Nursery, 2 at Psych Center, and 1 at Heuvelton Central on teen driving issues for BOCES students*
- *Spoke to Clarkson's on-campus radio station and did some PSA's on underage alcohol, speed and distracted driving*
- *Sent information on aggressive driving to the Educator at SUNY Canton for her in-service*
- *Contacted Martz radio stations regarding PSA's from last year on winter driving; they have agreed to replay some of those this year*
- *Have been distributing a lot of DOT's "Winter Driving Tips" brochures to DMV Offices, in teen packets, etc.; continue to work on distributing winter driving information to the public*
- *Attended Wellness Fair at SUNY Canton*
- *Continue a lot of work with car seats; changes in the recertification process have created lots of issues*

- *Held two car seat events: March 28 with DOH seats, April 14 training day with State Police and Rescue Squad in Gouverneur (issued press releases and did a report on WWNY-TV7 prior to these events)*
- *Planning a CPS training in Saranac Lake in May*

TRAFFIC SAFETY GRANT UPDATE

Michele reported:

- *Unofficially there have been 3 fatalities in St. Lawrence County since January 1 of this year*
- *Our mid-year reports are due and will be mailed to the State shortly. 2007-2008 grant applications are available on-line and are due in Albany May 15th*
- *DOT's "Winter Driving" brochures have been distributed to the DMV Offices rather than to the Post Offices*
- *304 Parent Packets of information have been provided to the DMV*
- *The next Buckle Up New York Initiative will be May 21-June 3, 2007*
- *Equipment has been purchased through the STEP Grant. All 4 agencies who applied will use their funds in the summertime*
- *Michele attended NHTSA's Highway Safety Program Management Course in Saratoga Springs in March*
- *There will be an informational meeting regarding TraCS on April 25th at 11:00 a.m. at the Lake Placid Fire Department and on April 26th at 9:00 a.m. at the Watertown Fire Training Academy*
- *Our Traffic Safety Ambassador, Rene Barchitta, will be visiting our office on May 8th to monitor our programs*

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

No traffic safety activities to report, per Kevin Wells.

NEW YORK STATE POLICE

Cpt. Chauvin noted the State Police now have 4 license plate readers (hard mount) in our County. Troopers are mandated to use those vehicles with the readers round the clock 24/7. Troopers will be opening their new station in Gouverneur on March 8th.

Kevin added that the Sheriff's Department does have 1 portable license plate reader. They would like to switch to the hard mount-type.

NYSDOT

Ernie informed the Board:

- *DOT's last day of shift work was April 5. Their official snow/ice season is November 1 – April 15.*
- *Brought more pamphlets for Michele and Mary to help distribute ("Fines Doubled")*
- *Traffic light is now operating at SUNY Canton*
- *DOT is required by their main office to report any road closures (due to accident, fire, problem with the road itself, etc.)*
- *DOT has scheduled their Annual Safety Meeting for May 16 at the Oddfellows in Ogdensburg*

- *Ernie plans to provide more safety materials for Michele and Mary to distribute*

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Bill reported:

- *His department also ended shift work last week*
- *There are several bridges out right now that are under repair. He has received numerous complaints (along with the Sheriff's Department) regarding speed reduction areas. The most recent complaint is the Cray Mills area where apparently people are flying through since the bridge has been widened. He refers these complaints to law enforcement people.*
- *A pilot program for ATV's is now in effect in the Parishville area on a section of CR 58 and CR 24; local law now says they have to run the black top in this area. (Bill will send a copy of this law to the Sheriff and to Cpt. Chauvin.) There is a lot of discussion at present regarding ATV trails, insurance/liability, etc.*
- *His department receives a lot of calls regarding dead animals in the road. They do remove deer carcasses, but no other animals including dogs and cats.*
- *Bill would like to see more education and training out there regarding safety in work zones.*

STOP-DWI

Michele noted as of April 17, 2007, St. Lawrence County has 158 DWI Misdemeanors and 19 Felony Arrests this year. As of April 4, 2006, we had 107 DWI Misdemeanors and 20 Felony Arrests.

Enforcement

- *1st Quarter Arrest Reports for 2007 by Police Agencies and T-SLED Arrests as of February, 2007 were handed out*
- *Standardized Field Sobriety Testing Program was offered in mid-March at the David Sullivan Law Enforcement Academy*
- *Michele did a presentation on intoxication at the David Sullivan Law Enforcement Academy on March 27*
- *Setting up a HGN (Horizontal Gaze Nystagmus) Training for police officers at the Academy at SUNY Canton on August 20*

Public Information

- *Radio spots and newspaper articles on drinking and driving have been released*
- *Did 2 presentations at the Psych Center, 3 at Health Classes at Potsdam High School, 1 to the Community Services Board, and 1 to the Substance Abuse Task Force*
- *Provided displays for the Colton Winterfest and SUNY Potsdam Wellness Fair*
- *Planning a DWI Mock Crash for OFA on April 24 with April 25 as a rain date. Two others schools are currently planning mock crashes for the near future.*

Administration

- *One individual completed our Victim Impact Panel Program for court compliance.*
- *Our 2007 STOP-DWI Plan was approved. Annual Fiscal and 1st Quarter Revenue and Expenditure Reports have been sent to the State.*

- *Hosted 2 programs on the Chronic Drunk Driver for the STOP-DWI Foundation in Watertown and Malone. Eight persons from our County attended.*
- *Currently working on a recidivism report on DWI for the past 5 years to determine any trends and will report at our July meeting.*
- *Working on a letter to the magistrates updating them on fine collections and the Drinking Driver Program.*

OTHER CONCERNS

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for July 25, 2007 at 3:00 p.m. in Canton. A motion to adjourn today's meeting was made by Dick McDougall, seconded by Cpt. Chauvin.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Kim Hayes
Recording Secretary*