

ST. LAWRENCE COUNTY TRAFFIC SAFETY BOARD

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Michele James
Executive Secretary

Sheriff Gary J. Jarvis
Chairman

MINUTES **October 24, 2007**

PRESENT: M. James, M. Davison, Sheriff G. Jarvis, Lt. D. Polniak, R. McDougall,
C. Ballard, A. Peabody, Cpt. D. Chauvin, M. Bogart, Roger Folsom (Guest)
ABSENT: E. Olin, W. Dashnaw, L. Moore

Sheriff Jarvis called the meeting to order. Michele introduced Roger Folsom from the Town of Fine, a new prospective Board member. The Sheriff welcomed him, and introductions were made. A motion to approve the minutes of the July, 2007 meeting was made by Cpt. Chauvin, seconded by Craig Ballard.

TRAFFIC SAFETY GRANT UPDATE

Michele reported:

- Our End of Year Reports and final 4th Quarter Voucher have been submitted
- Our new 2007-2008 402 Grant called Partnerships for Traffic Safety includes such topics as Parent Education, Youth Education, Selective Traffic Enforcement Education, and Winter Driving Tips. We applied for \$93,349 and were awarded \$91,349
- Our Child Passenger Safety Grant includes the Potsdam, Gouverneur Rescue and Seaway Valley Ambulance Fitting Stations. Mary received \$1,430 for Potsdam, and Seaway Valley received \$10,400. No word yet on Gouverneur
- Three police agencies applied for Buckle Up NY (BUNY) Grants: Norfolk, Norwood and Potsdam. If the grants are awarded, they will be sent directly to those agencies
- Five police agencies applied for Selective Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) Grants: Massena, Norfolk, Norwood, Potsdam and SUNY Potsdam and, if awarded, will be sent directly to those agencies

TRAFFIC SAFETY ACTIVITIES

Mary reported:

- Since the end of July, we've provided 205 New Driver Packets to the DMV for a total of 1,126 for the grant year
- Attended partnership meetings with Safe Schools/Healthy Students on 9/24 and Human Services Interagency on 9/28
- Issued a "Back to School" Traffic Safety Newsletter to area schools and human services agencies. (A partner agency has offered to create PDF versions of our newsletters for easier distribution in the future.) (handouts)
- Brochures and information cards have been updated/created related to teen driving issues. (handouts)
- Currently working on 'Parents Who Host Lose The Most' campaign materials with help from Mr. Grandy of the DA's Office; working to procure partner approvals for the logo design

- *Gave several presentations: Pedestrian Safety at Potsdam School 10/4, Occupant Restraint/Car Seats 10/22, Risky Driving for Driver Education Class in Gouverneur with Michele 8/2, Road Safety for children and teens at Psych Center 10/12*
- *Attended Family Night Out in Gouverneur 8/7, SUNY Potsdam Residence Life Fair 8/22, Harvest Home Fair 9/29, Open House at St. Lawrence Central 10/11; provided brochures to Massena's Home Depot for their Safety Fair 10/6. Mary also attended an EAP Fair today at the Gouverneur Correctional Facility providing a display on winter driving*
- *Issued a press release for Child Passenger Safety Week*
- *Submitted information to the County's EAP Newsletter and area child care/Head Start on backing incidents*
- *Hosted a car seat check in Massena 9/19 in coordination with Seaway Valley Ambulance, NYSP, and Massena PD*
- *Attended the Annual STOP-DWI/Traffic Safety Conference in Lake Placid with Michele 10/15-17*

Michele also noted:

- *393 Parent Packets have been given to the DMV. She extended her gratitude to Sheriff Jarvis, Nicole Duvé and Patty Ritchie for their support and assistance with this project*
- *In coordination with Safe Schools/Healthy Students Coalition, we've received a grant of \$5,333 through the NYS Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services for a media campaign on 'Parents Who Host Lose The Most'. The grant runs from June 2007 – May 2008*
- *In 2007, we've had 15 traffic fatalities (unofficially): possibly 3 alcohol-related, 3 motorcycle, 1 lost control/ejected, 1 asleep at wheel, 1 speed, 3 inattention/distracted driving, 3 unknown reason why vehicle crossed center line*

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

Sheriff Jarvis reported his department has moved forward in the process to equip their vehicles with laptops for an automated ticket-writing and accident-reporting system. All of the paperwork as been submitted, and they're waiting to hear from the State that they're coming to train his people on the system.

The Sheriff's Department also has one license plate reader up and running and has requested an additional one in next year's budget; so far it hasn't been eliminated. They now have the radio system which allows the deputies to send/receive information directly to/from DCJS in Albany to/from their individual vehicles. There is money in the grant to provide one of these units to each of the local police agencies, and that will be done when the bugs have been worked out of their own system.

NEW YORK STATE POLICE

Cpt. Chauvin noted that activity in his zone is up 15% to date over last year. They are currently down one dedicated speed enforcement/aggressive driving trooper on the road. The zone sergeants downstairs are presently working on traffic safety plans for next year due at the end of the month. Everything else is status quo.

NYSDOT

No report given.

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT

Mike Bogart reported that his people have had the opportunity to attend some safety classes recently: one in Morristown on chainsaw use and one on snowplow safety in Ogdensburg.

All town highway departments are encouraged to have at least one safety meeting per month.

Mike extended a warm welcome to Sheriff Jarvis to attend the Highway Superintendents' Association breakfast meeting at McCarthy's in Canton at 9 a.m. on December 13th.

STOP-DWI

Michele noted as of October 24, 2007, we've had 450 DWI misdemeanors and 70 felonies this year. In 2006, we had 410 DWI misdemeanors and 62 felonies for the same time period, so we're up on both counts this year.

Enforcement

- *3rd Quarter Arrest Reports for 2007 by Police Agencies and T-SLED Arrests as of 8/2007 were handed out with breakdown by agencies as of 9/2007*
- *HGN Training for 37 police officers was held on 8/20 at the Law Enforcement Academy*
- *Sheriff Jarvis participated in a multi-county DWI commercial to be used this year on Channel 50 (this commercial has been nominated for an award, per Michele)*
- *Last Drink Locations listed from the Sheriff's and local PDs' Datamasters for July – September were sent out*
- *Sheriff's and Massena PD's Datamasters will be the first to be replaced with newer versions by March. (Sheriff Jarvis says his department has already received theirs, but it's not yet operational. Training is to be provided in a couple of weeks.)*

Public Information

- *Continue to advertise with radio and TV spots*
- *Presentations given at Gouverneur Fair, Massena Driver Education classes (3), Gouverneur Driver Education (72 students), Colton-Pierrepont Driver Education (20 students)*
- *Displays/Health Fair – SUNY Oksoberfest*
- *Education materials provided to Canton PD*

Administration

- *Four motorists completed our Victim Impact Panel Program for court compliance*
- *Currently preparing 3rd Quarter Revenue and Expenditure Reports*
- *Mary and Michele attended a presentation on Intoxalock Ignition Interlock System. So far, Frenchie's Chevrolet in Massena is the only dealer signed on to install the units*
- *Mary and Michele attended the Annual Conference in Lake Placid 10/15 – 17*
- *Michele attended Drug Court Team Training in Lake George 10/10 & 11*
- *Still working on a recidivism report on DWI for the past 5 years looking for trends*
- *Still working on fine collections from the local courts. Michele has been asked by the President of the STOP-DWI Association to head a sub-committee from the organization on fines not collected*

OTHER CONCERNS

Sheriff Jarvis stated that the State has been urging him to take on their Operation Safe Child Program, where photos of young children in our County are taken to enter into the database in Albany in case of a lost/missing child. He wonders if this is something his department could do along with Mary/Michele when they are attending fairs and manning information tables, which they agreed could be done.

Allan asked the Board members for some suggestions on where to find some help with a situation that Russell is having with the loss of access to a town road. Discussion ensued, and it was suggested that some advice could be sought from Bill Dashnaw of the County Highway Department or the County Planning Board.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, January 23, 2008 at 3:00 p.m. in Canton. A motion to adjourn today's meeting was made by Mike Bogart, seconded by Lt. Polniak.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Kim Hayes
Recording Secretary*