

Warsaw Traffic Safety Commission

Wednesday, August 7, 2019

1:00 p.m.

A scheduled meeting of the Warsaw Traffic Safety Commission was held Wednesday, August 7, 2019, at 1:00 p.m. at Warsaw City Hall Council Chambers. **Voting members in attendance were Captain Joel Beam, Cindy Dobbins, Jeremy Skinner, Jeff Beeler, David Robertson, Connie Fribley, and Sgt. Lewis Fuller.** Also, in attendance was Mayor Joe Thallemer, Chief Scott D. Whitaker, Nick Deranek, Colton Cretcher, Pam Cretcher, Gale Cretcher, and Steve Cretcher.

Captain Joel Beam called the meeting to order.

ORAL OR WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

1. A motion was made to approve the minutes of the July 2019 meeting by Cindy Dobbins; seconded by Jeremy Skinner with no oppositions.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

1. The Warsaw Community School's safety updates were discussed by David Robertson. He advised Warsaw Community Schools continually collaborates with the Warsaw Police Department, the Traffic Safety Commission, and additional local authorities to review the safety of the school walking and bus routes. Additionally, officials have advised that construction projects are scheduled to begin in the next few weeks and will potentially impact some sidewalks and roads. Because these projects will affect the walking zones at North Pointe Drive, Husky Trail, and 300 North, Warsaw Schools will begin the school year by providing bus service on these routes. This temporary decision will be reviewed upon completion of the construction projects.

Crossing guards will continue to be on duty from 8:35 a.m. to 9:05 a.m. and from 3:40 p.m. to 4:10 p.m. at Harrison Elementary School. Mr. Robertson advised Warsaw Community Schools encourages students and families to take advantage of bus transportation during the period of construction. He further stated WCS reminds the public the start of the school year means increased pedestrian and bus traffic and asked for the public's help in ensuring that all students get to and return from school safely. He added, the public should refrain from distracted driving and remember to stop for extended school bus stop arms.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **School Safety Update – City of Warsaw** - Captain Joel Beam reiterated that school begins on August 13, 2019. He asked for increased driver awareness and to look for children walking to and from school. Parents were asked to follow the guidelines the school has set forth. If there is a parent drop off zone at a certain school, parents are asked to use that drop off. He added there are a few schools where parents are dropping off in an undesignated area which causes children to have to walk and cross in areas that are not ideal.
2. **Crossing Guard Training** – The Warsaw Police Department will be training crossing guards for Warsaw Community Schools. The first training will begin this Friday, August 9, 2019. The relationship between Warsaw Community Schools, the Warsaw Police Department, and the City of Warsaw is something a lot of school systems and police departments are envious of.
3. **Augmenting Existing Lights with Flashing Solar Speed Boards** – Jeff Beeler advised his department has done research for two sets of flashing solar speed boards and the average price

range for each set is \$13,000 to \$16,000 depending where the LED's are located on the sign as well as a few other options. The lead time is 5-8 weeks. He added in the past, parts could be purchased and installed; however, with the new rules, those items cannot be purchased without going through engineering first which is done through the sign company. The sign company will be provided the desired options and they will make sure all the standards are met and will build and install.

Mayor Thallemer advised there are LED's that are around the perimeter of the sign or there are separate flashing lights above and both are solar powered. He stated the Traffic Commission felt the speed board was critical to draw awareness to the speed; not just at Harrison Elementary but at all the schools.

Mayor Thallemer stated information was obtained from Purdue (LTAP) regarding recommendations on the Husky Trail area. Several key points were the signage and making sure MUTCD standards were met as well as potentially adding more signs. There were other improvements discussed including potentially narrowing the lanes to shorten the crosswalk and a pedestrian island. The City will be looking at these suggestions but immediately the suggestion was to adjust the time on the flasher. Mayor Thallemer informed what is being proposed is to delineate the school zone with these signs and the signs would be programmed and activated from the City. The City will take care of these signs after determination is made where they should be placed. For example, if there was a fog delay, potentially times could be shifted, and the signs would actively be flashing on both ends of the school zone. This would include the summer if there were specific drop off times, etc. It would be an added layer of notification.

4. **Timing Adjustment for Crosswalk Lights** - Captain Beam stated they didn't want the public to get used to lights in the crossing area. He wants lights to be on when there are pedestrians crossing the street. One of the lights installed on Husky Trail is adjustable for time. The City is working with the school on lowering that, so it is not as long, and drivers are not getting used to seeing flashing lights.
5. **Mariner's/North Point Drive Sidewalk Timetable** – Jeremy Skinner advised the project will begin next week and go through November 2019. Phend and Brown will be the contractor on this project, and he stated he passed along that information to the school corporation because it will be challenging walking through that area while they are reconstructing the road for the sidewalk. The sidewalk will tie into Husky Trail to the YMCA.
6. **Enforcement in School Zones** – Captain Beam advised the Warsaw Police Department will be out and aggressively seeking those who are not obeying the speed limit and those who are not driving with caution.

OTHER MATTERS THAT MAY COME BEFORE THE BOARD:

1. **Construction Zones** – Jeremy Skinner advised there are many construction projects in the City at this time. On two different projects, there have been issues with driver's who are frustrated and drove through people's property and disobeyed stop signs because of construction. Jeremy asked drivers to slow down, pay attention, and use the detours. He further stated he was at a site today with a property owner and drivers were driving through their yard rather than turning around on a closed road and finding an alternative route. He asked that drivers be patient and pay attention to construction signs and workers.

Mayor Thallemer stated after looking at the report from Purdue, they suggested that nothing will take the place of education which the City is trying to do along with enforcement. Driver's need to be responsible as well. Jeremy Skinner advised there are many construction projects yet to start. North Pointe will begin next week, 300 N will begin in the first week of September, and US 30 intersection (Parker to Anchorage) is scheduled to begin August 19, 2019. The patching project along US 30 will begin soon.

The next regular scheduled meeting – September 4, 2019, at 1:00 p.m.

Meeting Adjourned.