

## **TRAFFIC SAFETY BOARD MEETING**

**February 28, 2011 – 1:00 p.m.**

PRESENT: Chairman Joe Waldron, Mechanicville PD; E. M. Rooney, Sheriff's Office; Bob Murphy, DWI Coordinator; Todd Ives, Ballston Spa PD; Patrick Campion, D.A.'s Office; George Downs, Rich Guerin, Malta Ridge FD; Tim Williams, Waterford PD; Heather Kisselback, Prevention Council; Cynthia Dort, Cornell Cooperative Extension; Andrew Prestigiacomio, Saratoga Springs PD; Jim Murphy, D.A.

Chairman Waldron called the meeting to order.

Chairman Waldron stated they had a DWI on Super Bowl Sunday. Our next focus will be St. Patrick's Day, he said. There is a wave that will begin March 16 – 20, and he encouraged all agencies to participate in that wave. Mr. B. Murphy said there is money for 12 hours per agency for that period of time.

Chairman Waldron stated the Empire State Law Enforcement Training Seminar will be held April 26-27 at the Double Tree Conference Center in Syracuse. He stated GTSC will sponsor a room for him to go to this Conference.

Chairman Waldron said the grant process has begun and is in full swing. Go to the GTSC website if you are looking for seat belt, aggressive driving and child passenger seat money, he stated. The deadline for those grants is May 15<sup>th</sup>, and they are competitive Statewide. He mentioned Clifton Park put one

together to make their town safer. They requested \$30,000, but I do not know how much they received, he said.

Chairman Waldron stated the 2011 Statewide Operation Safe Stop Enforcement Day is March 30<sup>th</sup>. We should get patrols out there and get behind the school buses, he said. He stated there is a sheet on the GTSC website if you do participate which is optional unless you have an aggressive driving grant, then it must be filled out.

Rich Guerin distributed copies of information on "Town of Malta Motor Vehicle Crash Analysis." He said last year, they felt it was a horrific year of severe crashes in the Town of Malta. We know the average daily traffic volumes are increasing significantly, he said. We have dense residential settings like Ellsworth Commons right on Route 9; there are large dump trucks going through every five minutes; we believe there will be 400 trucks daily coming through the Round Lake Bypass due to the rail yard in Mechanicville; GlobalFoundries will have a mix of daily chemical deliveries which are the most hazardous chemicals known to man, he stated. He stated he put together some numbers off of the DOT website. There are 71,000 vehicles daily at Exit 12; 66,000 at Exit 13 and Route 9; and 17,000 daily on Route 9 in Malta, he said. He mentioned additional roundabouts are being planned. He said mostly fender benders occur on the roundabouts in Malta. He said he believes the Racino is driving the traffic on Exit 13 and Old Post Road. He said in doing a comparison of all of the County's towns, more people get injured on Malta roads than any other community in Saratoga County. The County average is about 0.3, and it is 1.1 for Malta. He said he included the State Police data in his handout but not the Sheriff's or local police department data. He said the State Police data for 2010 shows a total of 400 crashes in Malta with 20 of them needing the Malta Ridge Fire Department's Jaws of Life. We are seeing spikes in our fire department responses, he stated.

Mr. Guerin said north of 9P turns into a speedway there. Our section of Northway between Exits 12 and 13 has more accidents than any other stretch of the Northway, he said. I do not see law enforcement presence too much in that area, he stated. He mentioned half of the people killed last year were in the Town of Malta – Northway, 9P, Rte. 9 and Malta Ave. Ext. all had speed involved. He also distributed a sheet showing the 2010 Fatals by driver age and whether alcohol was involved or not. He stated the traffic congestion and density in Malta is increasing and will exacerbate the

problem. We are being asked twice monthly to respond with our Jaws of Life, and our equipment is very old, he said. We need more high-powered equipment to do rescues in a timely manner, and we would like GTSC to give us \$25,000 to update our Jaws of Life, he stated. He said they would like the support of this Traffic Safety Board to go to GTSC, and I believe we need a more comprehensive traffic safety plan. I hope you can direct us on how to combat this problem, he stated. I submitted this to the Malta Town Board, and many of them nodded their heads. He displayed a large map showing the areas of Malta crashes from 2008 through 2010.

Chairman Waldron asked if Malta had a Traffic Safety Board, and Mr. Guerin said no. Chairman Waldron said he believes protection of a community starts at home, and he said he would form a Traffic Safety Committee. He said the City of Mechanicville has one. He stated his advice to Mr. Guerin is to request that the Town of Malta create such a committee which is appointed by the governing body to include people from the community, Highway Superintendent, Fire Chief, public works and public safety members, etc. Then, you can take all you have done and start asking as a group for funds, he stated. You cannot ask GTSC for funds if you are not a committee, he said. GTSC deals with law enforcement purposes, he added.

Mr. Guerin asked Chairman Waldron if he would be willing to speak to the Malta Town Board. Chairman Waldron said he does not want to overstep his bounds. My role is to get DWI monies and talk about trends and issues, he said. I will have to check with B. Murphy and others before I can do that, he stated. Mr. Guerin said he is getting a mixed reaction from the Town Board. Chairman Waldron said Malta is growing rapidly, and he fears it will be like Clifton Park. I believe Malta would be smart to be ahead of that, he said. Mr. B. Murphy suggested that Mr. Guerin call GTSC to see if they can send some kind of a notice that recommends the Town form this committee. Mr. Guerin asked if there were other grant avenues. Chairman Waldron suggested he reach out to his local elected leaders. Mechanicville got their Jaws donated by a member item by then Congressman Murphy, he stated. If you give these statistics to your local representatives, they love that stuff, he said. Mr. Guerin said the Jaws of Life is only one small piece of this. We have a problem and we need to do something about it. Half of the people are dying in this very small area, he stated.

Mr. Prestigiacommo said in April of last year, the State Police said from Broadway in Saratoga Springs to Jones Road is the third most unsafe highway. We wrote 138 tickets in that corridor, he said. He suggested that maybe Mr. Guerin may want to approach the NYSDOT. Mr. Guerin said Saratoga Springs is getting the spike as well.

Mr. Guerin thanked the Board for its time and recommendations. Hopefully in a couple of months, I can drop you a note as to how we are making out, he stated.

Mr. Campion announced that their annual DWI training will be May 18<sup>th</sup> in the Board of Supervisors' Chambers, and we encourage all law enforcement agencies to participate. Lunch will be provided, he stated. We will have fliers out as the time gets closer, he added.

Mr. J. Murphy mentioned for the iRecord system that records statements of defendants, the County has approved the purchase of 8 rooms for video interrogations. Saratoga Springs is getting two, and everybody else is getting one, he said. The Sheriff's will be installed first, then the local pd's and State Police. Chairman Waldron said they met with the engineers to pick out what they are getting. Mr. J. Murphy said if departments want extras, they have to do that on their own.

Mrs. Dort stated the CPS Conference is May 11 – 13 in Lake Placid. The money is already there for the hotel; you just have to sign up. The registration fee is \$130. She said she does not know when the next one will be held.

Mrs. Dort said the panels for the display board are almost done for two of the families, and there are five families. The other ones are being done, she said. These panels will be seen first at the Victim Impact Vigil on April 10<sup>th</sup>. It will be in a separate area and will not take away from the vigil. Then, the week of April 12<sup>th</sup>, it will be at the Mechanicville High School and then Saratoga Catholic High after that. After they are in the schools, they will be available for other places, she said. She stated this is a series of 26 panels talking about five families who have lost a loved one because of a teen.

Mrs. Dort said if anyone wants to do something for Operation Safe Stop, it is in her grant. She mentioned one year they did it with Mechanicville, and Channel 13 rode with us.

Mrs. Kisselback announced the Safe Spring is March 17<sup>th</sup> at Skidmore. By the next meeting, I should have a great report on how that went, she said. She stated there are slots for 300 kids.

Mr. Prestigiaco said he has been seeing high BAC's come across his desk. He said they had one crash where the person fled the scene but was eventually found.

Chairman Waldron stated the Civil Service exam that was to be given for Police Officers has been canceled. He said he sits on the MPTC, and we have a meeting on Wednesday, and we will take that that up. We like the exams to be held twice a year, he stated.

**\*\* NEXT MEETING – MONDAY, MARCH 21<sup>ST</sup> AT 1:00 P.M. \*\***

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine M. Sodemann