

TRAFFIC SAFETY BOARD MEETING

January 9, 2006 – 1:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Chairman Will Crandall, Saratoga Springs PD; E. M. Rooney, Sheriff's Dept.; John Tanchak, Waterford PD; Joseph Waldron, Mechanicville PD; Karen Pettigrew, MADD; Bob Murphy, Co. STOP-DWI Coordinator; Thomas Parks, Charlton Police; Jim Murphy, D.A.; Wayne DeSorbe, Stillwater PD; Elias M. Carey, Stillwater PD; Jack Ditch, Town of Saratoga Justice; Judy Ekman, Prevention Council; Press

Chairman Crandall called the meeting to order.

Chairman Crandall said he was thinking about holding these meetings every other month, and he would like to do an outline for the year. Mr. B. Murphy said we will need to have a meeting next month, and then we can go from there.

Chairman Crandall said in May, we have prom weekends, State-sponsored DWI initiatives in July and September, Operation Safe Stop in October, BUNY in November and STOP-DWI patrols in December. He said he would like to have a Countywide Safe Stop for buses on April 24th.

Mr. B. Murphy said we will start off 16 hours per month for DWI patrols. Chairman Crandall reminded all departments to get their vouchers in in a timely fashion. Mr. B. Murphy said to get the December vouchers in to him as soon as possible because the books close January 31st.

It was the consensus of the Board to hold a Countywide DWI initiative on Super Bowl Sunday weekend (February 4 & 5).

Mrs. Ekman mentioned Thursday, March 16th is the Safe Spring Conference at Skidmore from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. She stated Bobby Petrochelli will be the speaker. He and his wife were asleep in bed, and a car plowed through their bedroom wall, and his wife was killed by the DWI driver.

Mrs. Ekman stated there will be a Victim Impact Panel tomorrow night in Saratoga Springs. She said they had a cancellation from the Ballston Spa PD.

Mrs. Ekman said most of the proms are held in May, and she will try to get those dates by March.

Chairman Crandall said last year, we had good luck with DWI patrols at the start of the track. The trend seems to be towards more speed enforcement with the grants this year. He mentioned the NYS Association of Traffic Safety Boards will be meeting next month in Colonie, and any member is welcome to go to that. (www.nysatsb.com). State meetings are almost always held locally in Colonie at the Public Safety Building, he said.

Mr. Rooney stated they have Accident Investigation coming up on January 23rd.

Chairman Crandall said he is trying to get a photogrammetry system for his department. This is a type of imaging software that allows investigators to better investigate automotive accidents by determining physical dimensions of objects from measurements on digital photographs. He said

they could have used that at the serious motor vehicle accident that occurred Thursday in Saratoga Springs. He said technology is getting better and better.

Chairman Crandall stated his department has started doing mutual training with their fire department, and it has worked out great. Mr. J. Murphy said he has been to a lot of crash scenes. He complimented the Saratoga Springs PD for their organization and cooperation with firefighters and the State Police. The recent fatal accident in Saratoga Springs was well investigated, he added.

Chairman Crandall said he has been asked by members of the media about the trends of serious collisions in Saratoga County. He said he does not have the last two years data from the County.

Chairman Crandall said he will be reaching out to Chief Waldron for hands on assistance with TRACS. Mr. Waldron stated he has three guys who went through training.

Chairman Crandall said they have had a couple of interesting incidents with commercial vehicles. We had a DWI arrest with an 18-wheeler last weekend, he stated. This training is very important, he added.

Chairman Crandall introduced new member, John Tanchak of the Waterford PD. Mr. Tanchak stated he is the new Waterford Public Safety Commissioner.

Mrs. Pettigrew said MADD is bringing the multi media program to the high schools of Saratoga/Warren/Washington Counties. MADD is trying to raise money to do the shows for free, and this will occur the first two weeks of May.

Mrs. Pettigrew stated the Crime Victims' Rights Week is April 23 – 29. The candlelight vigil will be held at the Presbyterian Church in Saratoga Springs on April 23rd, and the brick dedication will be held at the Capital Building on Saturday, April 29th.

Mrs. Pettigrew said MADD/Capital Region meets the first Thursdays of each month at 6:00 p.m. at their Latham office. They are in the process of planning a road rally at Cook Park in Colonie on June 10th, she said.

Mrs. Ekman said Sean French was killed by a drunk driver in Columbia County. His father is sponsoring a seat belt contest for high school kids. Each high school is supposed to conduct its own contest, and winning teams will be sent to the large contest at Sean's Run in April. At Safe Spring, we will be getting a few Saratoga County teams to participate by conducting this seat belt contest, she said. She said the purpose is not to get kids to be very fast but to raise the awareness in some way of how important it is to have teens wear seat belts.

**** NEXT MEETING – MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6TH AT 1:00 P.M. ****

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Elaine M. Sodemann