

## **TRAFFIC SAFETY BOARD MEETING**

**July 10, 2006 – 1:00 p.m.**

PRESENT: Chairman Will Crandall, Saratoga Springs PD; John Tanchak, Waterford PD; James Davis, Ass't. D.A.; Dennis Latham, Stillwater PD; Bob Murphy, STOP-DWI Coordinator; Jack Murray, County Auditor; Michael Williams, NYSP-Wilton; Karen Pettigrew, MADD; Joseph Waldron, Mechanicville PD; Steve Williams, Daily Gazette

Chairman Crandall called the meeting to order.

Chairman Crandall requested the agencies to get their vouchers in to Jack Murray.

Chairman Crandall said he has heard a little about the grants from the State. He said he is in the process of rewriting one of the grants for the Committee. He said the issue is a 3-year cycle, and he believes the State is looking for a more comprehensive total traffic safety plan. He said he wants to change the Saratoga Springs' grant to a 402 grant.

Chairman Crandall said in looking at the numbers, Saratoga County has the most fatalities in the Capital region. We also have the second highest number of registered vehicles and licensed drivers, he said. He stated Albany County is not that far ahead of us. He said he is in the process of getting some traffic flow studies from D.O.T. This will probably lead to more funding for this Committee, he said. When we get move involved with TRACS, we will get more timely data, he added.

Mr. Waldron told Chairman Crandall that he thought he was going to submit one Step grant for the entire County. Chairman Crandall said he is. He said everything he has done in the past was for the County, and he never compared things with other counties, but Dan Larkin suggested that he do that. Hopefully that will translate to more funding for the Committee and individual agencies, he said. He stated that he would like to have more funding available for around the holidays and more corridor enforcement. He stated that everybody has to get on board with TRACS. I see a big difference in numbers from DMV and what the County has, he said.

Chairman Crandall mentioned that Mr. Murphy has more funding. Mr. Murphy said at the last meeting, we talked about DWI patrols the first weekend of the track and around Labor Day. Chairman Crandall said July 26 is the opening day of the track. Chairman Crandall stated we can do Countywide patrols the weekend of July 29<sup>th</sup> and the weekend of September 2<sup>nd</sup> at 16 hours each. He said these should be announced patrols. So far, this has been a better year for us for serious accidents, he said.

Mr. Murphy stated we were fortunate prom and graduation weekends because of all of the agency cooperation with the patrols. Mr. Davis mentioned the Dave Matthews Band concert at SPAC went pretty well also.

Chairman Crandall stated during the first week of the track, they will be demonstrating the Plate Hunter. This device can scan several hundred license plates per minute for suspensions. In addition, it can also be programmed to detect scofflaws, etc. This is hooked up to a laptop, and when it gets a hit, the screen flashes red with an instant picture. He stated the Plate Hunter costs \$18,000 plus the cost of a laptop and hooking it up. He mentioned Albany and Schenectady Counties paid for this by programming scofflaws. It is made by Remington Arms, he said. He encouraged all of the agencies to get in touch with him to see the demo the first week of track season. He said the projected life of the unit is 10 years. It works up to 50 mph. It is just a phenomenal invention, he added.

Mr. Waldron asked if it is worth going to the County to request one for the north and south portions of the County. Mr. Murray suggested getting in touch with Supervisor Jack Lawler to make the pitch to him as Chairman of the Public Safety Committee. He also suggested calling GTSC to see if there is any upcoming money that would be available. Mr. Waldron said his roommate at the Chiefs' Conference is on the GTSC, and he will talk to him. Chairman Crandall said he is confident that Saratoga Springs will be purchasing the Plate Hunter. Mr. Murphy asked if it is feasible to share this unit? Chairman Crandall said as long as you have a plug in. Mr. Murphy said maybe this Committee could sponsor a seminar for all of the County police departments. Mr. Waldron suggested calling Remington Arms to send a person here. Mr. Latham asked if one could be financed, and Chairman Crandall said he wasn't sure.

Mr. Waldron mentioned AUO's are a huge problem in his part of the County. We only catch a part of them, he said. He stated they are putting

\$250 bail on every single AUO. For seconds, we hold onto their car, he added.

Mr. David stated the DWI workshop will be held on September 13<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Murphy suggested doing a 45-minute demo on the Plate Hunter at that seminar. Mr. Davis said the class is pretty full, so maybe information on it could just be distributed. Chairman Crandall said the Plate Hunter is designed to handle Thruway rush hour volume of traffic. It is also great to track down potential witnesses for hit and runs. It scans every plate that goes by, he said. His only concern is how it will work in very cold weather.

Mrs. Pettigrew stated there will be a Victim Impact Panel tomorrow night at 7 p.m. in Clifton Park.

Chairman Crandall mentioned Glens Falls is having a problem with motorcycles. We are not having too much of a problem, but they are tough to stop, he said. He said he honestly does not know how to deal with them, but he said he would appreciate suggestions.

Mr. Davis said there is a not of new DWI legislation coming out. It is on the Governor's desk for signature. Mrs. Pettigrew said a package was put together, and we were assured it would go through both houses, and it appears it did. Mr. Davis said he would provide an update at the September training. He said for a combination of drugs and alcohol, you don't have to prove which substance caused the impairment, you just have to prove the impairment. We are even seeing a trend towards prescription drug abuse, he said. He said at the DWI seminar, we will have toxicology from the lab come to talk about how to take and properly package urine. He said with a .18, you can lose your license for a refusal. He discussed what happens at the refusal hearings. Mr. Waldron said people are refusing more so than ever before. Mr. Davis requested the police agencies to notify his office if there is a refusal. He said with this .18 legislation, this could lead to more refusals, he said. Mr. Waldron said there should be stiffer penalties for the refusals. Mrs. Pettigrew requested Mr. Davis to e-mail her with what he would like to see happen, and she would bring it to the State committee for discussion.

Mr. Davis mentioned that AAA will be supplying lunch for the officers at the September 13<sup>th</sup> DWI training.

Mrs. Pettigrew said MADD is supportive of the on line program, Alcohol EDU, for high schools' and colleges' incoming freshmen. She said she spoke to Jim Murphy, and he was checking into making this a Countywide piece of a program for youthful offenders with alcohol issues. She said the program is showing some great results. Siena College uses it for its incoming freshmen. She said hopefully, we can have it in a couple of schools by January. She said it's a little pricey, but it could be a component of their sentencing.

**\*\* NO AUGUST MEETING \*\***

**\*\* NEXT MEETING – MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup> AT 1:00 P.M. \*\***

The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine M. Sodemann