



HIGHWAY SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

NOVEMBER 13, 2012

1:00 PM

POLICE DEPARTMENT –
BRAD CROSS ROOM

Attendees: Chief Mark E. Doyle, Adam Jacobs, Bob L'Heureux, Fran L'Heurux, Norman Peppin, Finlay Rothhaus, Paul Konieczka, Tom Touseau, Tim Thompson and Claire Rioux.

Excused: Chief Michael Carrier, Kyle Fox (Sent a representative in his stead, Adam Jacobs). Glen Wallace (came in after the meeting).

Guest: Captain Michael Dudash

Chairman Doyle called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Chairman Doyle called for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Meeting Minutes:

MOTION:

Motion by Tim Thompson and seconded by Fran L'Heureux to accept the June 18, 2012 minutes. Finlay Rothhaus abstained. Motion carries 7-0-1.

Comments from the Press and Public: None

OLD BUSINESS:

- June 18, 2012 agenda item # 2. **Request by Tim White of 3 Chapel Lane, requesting the committee to look into the possibility of installing a no parking sign on the south side of Chapel Lane across from his driveway (in front of the green fence)**

Chairman Doyle presented an overview regarding the above matter. The Fire Chief was looking into Tim White's, 3 Chapel Lane, request for the possibility of having a no parking sign installed on the south side of Chapel Lane, in front of his driveway, on the side of the green fence. His concern was a result from night meetings that were being held at the church. People are parking on the side of the road which hinders Mr. White's ability to pull in and/or back out of his

driveway. At the last meeting the Chief Currier expressed his concern about adequate ingress and egress for the fire trucks in this area.

Action Item:

Chairman Doyle will contact Chief Currier regarding the end result concerning Chapel Lane and will send a synopsis to the committee with the minutes of this meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Water/ice pooling in the road near #167 Bedford Road. G. Wallace (This comes via a discussion with a citizen. According to her, accidents have been recorded at this spot).

Chairman Doyle stated that a citizen brought this agenda item to Mr. Wallace's attention with the concern that many accidents have been occurring in this area. Chairman Doyle asked Karen Costello, PD records, to research how many accidents have occurred in the past 2 to 3 years in this area. The Chief also inquired if DPW has had any problems in this area.

Adam Jacobs replied that the area in concern is on the master plan project list to be repaired. The problem occurs mainly in the winter. This repair most likely will be an early in- house spring repair.

Action Item:

Chairman Doyle asked if Adam could notify the citizen at 167 Bedford Road that this repair is on the master plan list with a possible spring resolution.

Adam Jacobs replied that he would do so.

- Discussion of safety at the new Bedford/Merrimack exit 13 ramp off the FE Everett to Rte. 3. G Wallace.

Chairman Doyle informed the committee that he had the same safety concerns regarding exit 13. When you exit off 13, from the turnpike and head on to DW Highway southbound, under the bridge, you merge with the traffic coming north bound. You will find that you have a blind spot. You do not see traffic until you are about 20 feet away from the on coming traffic and ready to merge. Chairman Doyle does not believe that there are any signs such as yield or merge in that area. This issue should be brought to the attention of DOT.

Those in attendance agreed.

Finlay Rothhaus stated that there are no yield signs there and as far as merge signs. Finlay stated that he has no windows on the side of his van, and he is truly at the mercy of his last look, it is very dangerous.

Bob L'Heureux interjected that snow season is approaching and the snow banks will make it more difficult to see an on coming vehicle.

Chairman Doyle stated that Glen's suggestion was to pen a letter and have that particular area reviewed by the Department of Transportation (DOT). There is a need for advisory signs, such as merge signs, yield signs, and/or whatever DOT feels is appropriate to address this particular problem. Chairman Doyle further stated that he can pen a letter to DOT with the committees concerns.

Bob L'Heureux suggested since this is a State issue he strongly recommends the New Hampshire State Representatives and Senators of that area should be cc'd.

Chairman Doyle replied that would be done and also suggested notifying the Bedford Executive Councilor Pappas and Merrimack's Executive Councilor Pignatelli.

Tim Thompson interjected that the letter should be addressed to the Bureau of Turnpikes and cc: to Richard Radarowcz

Fran L'Heureux inquired since the area of concern is in the town of Bedford, do we have any numbers regarding accidents in this area and how serious?

Chairman Doyle replied we do not have the stats at this time, but would imagine someone else has brought this situation to the State's attention; there are a lot of people using that ramp that are going to Merrimack or are from Merrimack. Chairman Doyle stated that he is not sure if there have been any issues in that area, but he could imagine that we are not the only one's raising the concern regarding this area.

Bob L'Heureux stated this exit is in Bedford and as a courtesy we should notify the Bedford Town Council, Town Manager and Chief of Police.

Chairman Doyle replied that we will do so and will also send a copy of the letter to Bedford's Highway Safety Committee.

All in attendance agreed that a draft letter will be penned by Chairman Doyle.

Action Item:

Chairman Doyle will email the letter to the members of the committee for approval before mailing.

OTHER NEW BUSINESS:

Bob L'Heureux commented on a press release issued a couple of weeks ago regarding the closing of Wire Road for 9 months. He mentioned the newspapers write up but was concerned that there was no map attached to the press release. A matter as important as this should be accompanied with a map. Many people in town do not know the roads by name. He suggested that another press release should be issued with a map indicating where this work is going to be done and how to get around it. His suggestion was that the next time a press release is issued it should include a map.

Chairman Doyle replied that DPW did a good job with the press release. A map was attached with information on how to get around, which was also on the DPW website as well as the police departments website.

Bob L'Heureux interjected that no map was in the paper.

Chairman Doyle replied that Patch did include a map with the article they had in their paper. DPW did a great job with signage; they had the portable sign up well in advance. Information is disseminated to the people in town anyway we can, if there is another mechanism to utilize to get information out, we will absolutely do so.

Chairman Doyle followed-up with the following information. The closure took place yesterday. The press push was to make sure everyone on the Bedford side of the road was informed in case of an emergency they are still to call 911; the phone message will get to us and we will dispatch our officers, as well as the appropriate Bedford emergency unit. The seven homes in that area, will still have emergency services coverage.

Chairman Doyle asked if there are any more issues to be discussed.

- **Election Day**

Bob L'Heureux stated that he would like to discuss traffic on Election Day.

Chairman Doyle replied that he will be at the Council meeting on Thursday to discuss the election. He stated it was perfect storm, between 5-7:30PM (rush hour) there were 5 accidents between exit 5 in Nashua and exit 11 in Merrimack, pushing a lot of traffic out onto Daniel Webster Highway clogging Greeley St., which always backs up during rush hour. This made it more difficult for people to vote. Parking was an issue in the morning as well as the 5 pm rush hour. Even though traffic was congested, it was still moving all the time, it was very busy all day long.

Norm Peppin interjected that there were no parking signs for the handicap. He suggested that if we are to have one polling place again there should be an area in that parking lot up front for handicap.

Chairman Doyle replied there was parking for the handicap up front but not enough signage to indicate this. We should have had signs on McElwain St. and O’Gara Dr. and have these signs continue up to the front where handicap parking was accessible.

Fran L’Heureux interjected that they did put up extra signs, just not enough.

Tim Thomson noted that it may make some sense to contact Bill Hart from Londonderry. The Town of Londonderry has had a single polling place for at least 10 years now and they may have some useful suggestions.

Finlay Rothhaus stated that there was some handicap parking on the side of the building, and one could enter the building via the side door. Unfortunately, not everyone knew about this. He also stated that he is an advocate for having one voting station. St. John’s and the upper elementary sites would not of supported the parking needed. He stated in his opinion, one single voting place is better, we just have to work out the issues.

Chairman Doyle mentioned that he met with Captain Dudash as soon as he realized the amount of backup occurring. It was decided to have more officers on site to accommodate the situation. Lynn Christensen, Town Moderator, was notified regarding the additional police coverage.

Captain Dudash stated once we made the change of shutting down McElwain St. and O’Gara Dr near the school’s superintends office, forcing people to cut across, and placing officers at the Post, the officers were able to notify people about the handicap parking. This improved the situation greatly.

Bob L’Heureux also suggested having 2 lines for voting, one of the lines would be for the handicap. Some provisions have to be made for those who could not stand in line.

Chairman Doyle stated that there was such a provision but again not enough signage.

Finlay Rothhaus mentioned how it would be helpful to have an active voter check list which would be online so that once someone is marked off it would show up on everyone’s screen. If this was implemented we could have one line.

It was stated by Chairman Doyle that Lynn Christensen and himself would be at the Council meeting this Thursday night to discuss the challenges associated with the single voting station.

- **Black Friday**

Chairman Doyle discussed the traffic concerns surrounding the upcoming Black Friday event at the Premium Outlets. Gordon Leedy is the consultant for the premium outlets regarding their

traffic plans and emergency outlets. Gordon does not anticipate any more of a traffic concern or issue relative to the Black Friday then we experience for the mall opening. More parking spots are available and a different traffic volume is anticipated. Employees will be parking off the premises, and police details are all set up. There is no reason to anticipate using the temporary parking plan that we had for the grand opening. The outlet is planning a rolling opening, on Thursday night 1/3 of the stores will be opening at 9, a few more stores will be opening at midnight, the remainder of stores will open at 9am the next day and normal business hours will be in effect during the weekend.

Finley Rothhaus inquired if there was a stipulation on the site plan for business hours?

Tim Thompson replied that there is no restrictions for holiday business hours in their operations and maintenance plan.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business, the meeting was voted to adjourn on a motion made by Tim Thompson and seconded by Fran L'Heureux. Motion carries 9-0-0.

Meeting Adjourned 1:35PM