

Traffic Safety Committee
April 24, 2017

Present were: Chair Rozek, Councilors Morgan Allain, Remillard, and Theberge

Others present included City Manager Jim Wheeler, Public Works Director Michael Perreault, Police Chief Pete Morency, Assistant Chief Dan Buteau, and Barbara Tetreault, *Berlin Daily Sun*

Chair Rozek called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

Minutes

Councilor Morgan Allain moved with a second from Councilor Remillard to accept the minutes of the April 10, Traffic Safety meeting. So moved, the motion carried.

Request for a Yield Sign on Memorial/Madison

Chair Rozek stated that there is a concern for safety, primarily during school time, at this intersection. The PD investigated and there were no accidents; however they acknowledge that it is hard to measure close calls. A Stop sign was requested by a citizen and it was denied by the Committee. Councilor Remillard is revisiting the issue by requesting a Yield sign.

Chief Morency stated that this intersection is addressed in the law as an uncontrolled intersection and traffic on Memorial needs to stop while Madison has the right of way. There are other streets like this in the Western Avenue area that could then ask for signs. Councilor Remillard said she would like to see the intersection marked in some way, and a yield sign would give warning to yield to traffic on Madison Ave. Chief Morency said that if there is to be a sign there, it should be a stop sign because it is an end of street. Chair Rozek affirmed that if a yield sign goes up, it will be going against what is supposed to be done.

Councilor Theberge suggested a three way stop. Assistant Chief Buteau stated that he had checked with the Fire Department for a preference and they did not have one. They would abide by what is decided.

Councilor Remillard moved to add a Stop sign at Memorial Lane; Councilor Morgan Allain seconded and the motion carried. Councilor Theberge voted against.

OHRV Ordinance

With regard to liability on the trail connector, Mr. Wheeler indicated that he spoke with the in house attorney at Primex. He had a concern about the certificate of insurance from DRED regarding ownership of streets. Coverage is afforded to the owners of the land and the city does not own most streets; we have a right of way over the property. Property owners on either side own to the center line. The attorney recommended getting DRED to add municipalities to the certificate. Mr. Wheeler expects to get an answer from DRED in the next week.

Chief Morency stated that Berlin had to designate the roads as trails in order to be covered by the insurance. Our roads are access trails. He emphasized that changing the age limit for supervision by an

adult from 18 to 25 will give the PD what it needs to stop youth from riding the streets. The state was pushing for 25 in legislation and the bill was amended to age 21. Chief Morency noted that the City can be more restrictive by having the age at 25. Councilor Theberge asked about festivals and Chief Morency acknowledged that the Council can permit exceptions for special events.

Mr. Wheeler stated that the need for the connector trail was raised and there is a question of whether the City would be covered if the designation were removed from the ordinance. Councilor Theberge asked about schools and the Committee indicated that the School Board has policy that does not allow ATV's on school property.

The Committee reviewed the proposed changes to the ordinance and there were still questions to be answered. Chair Rozek called for another meeting May 1, 2017 at 5:30 where the OHRV ordinance and the Proposed Flashing Yellow Light at Hillside and Route 110 will be on the agenda.

There being no further business; Councilor Theberge moved to adjourn; Councilor Remillard seconded and the motion carried. The meeting ended at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted
Susan Tremblay
Administrative Assistant