

**CITY OF ONEIDA
TRAFFIC SAFETY BOARD**

April 16, 2019

2:00 p.m.

MEMBERS:

IN ATTENDANCE

Public Safety Commissioner Mike West	—
Police Lieutenant John Little	<u>Yes</u>
Fire Department Deputy Chief Rob Cowles	<u>Yes</u>
Asst. City Engineer Ben Smith	<u>Yes</u>
Traffic Advisor Robert Anderson	—
Chairman Bruce Burke	<u>Yes</u>
Vice-Chairman Donald White	<u>Yes</u>
Barbara Buehner	<u>Yes</u>
Douglas Lippert	—
Kathy Malinowski	<u>Yes</u>
James Sweet	<u>Yes</u>
Mike Kaiser	<u>Yes</u>
Gary Hamer	<u>Yes</u>
Kipp Hicks	—
Jim Dalzell	—

The regular meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Chairman Bruce Burke.

Moved by Barb Buehner
Seconded by James Sweet

RESOLVED that the minutes of the regular meeting of 01/15/19 are hereby approved.

Ayes: 7
Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

OLD BUSINESS

East Walnut Street/Wilson Street Stop Sign

Vice Chairman Don White said that he would like to see a straight shot across East Walnut Street. He said that you can see further looking to the left from Wilson Street if stopped, rather than looking back towards the right if stopped on East Walnut Street. He said that Jim was right, it's a lot easier to see and safer. Mike Kaiser said that the sight lines are good with all the houses gone from the buyout, and he sees no reason to change the placement of the stop sign. Chairman Burke said that Vineall Ambulance uses Wilson Street going south. Lt. Little said that no accident history comes to mind, and Barb Buehner concurred stating that the accident history was previously discussed. The City Clerk said the Police Chief had made previous mention that switching the stop sign from Walnut to Wilson after so many years could cause problems.

Moved by Barb Buehner
Seconded by Mike Kaiser

RESOLVED, that discussions of moving the stop sign on E. Walnut Street to Wilson Street shall be closed.

Ayes: 6

Nays: 1 (White)
MOTION CARRIED

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1 - MARIJUANA LEGALIZATION/DRIVING WHILE IMPAIRED

Mike Kaiser said there was a proposal in the Governor's budget this year for the legalization of marijuana, and he would like to discuss the traffic safety aspects. He said that there is an enforcement issue with DWAI. He said that all the City officers are certified on breathalyzers for DWI, but enforcement is different with Driving While Ability Impaired by Drugs, as it is much more difficult to judge the level of drug impairment. He said that neither the City, nor the County, have any Drug Recognition Experts, as the training is demanding and time consuming. Mike said per the proposal, counties with populations of over 100K will have an opt-out clause, but Madison County doesn't meet that criteria, which will complicate enforcement programs. He said that there is a lot of resistance to this proposed legalization of marijuana by law enforcement and public health officials. Lt. Little said that it is going to happen. He said that Colorado is the only case study for what the effects are. Lt. Little said that today's marijuana is not the same as that from the 1960's and 70's, as there are so many super concentrates which go way beyond the idea of a mellow weed; they are far stronger. Lt. Little suggested the Board check out videos on YouTube relating to marijuana use. He said the many psychiatrists and psychologists have said that they would rather deal with a heroin user from a treatment standpoint. He agreed with Mike, that many law enforcement agencies and medical agencies have expressed various concerns with legalization. Lt. Little said that Colorado saw an explosion of users who thought they could not get in trouble for driving under the influence of weed, but arrests can be made. He said that legalization will present challenges to the OPD. Lt. Little also mentioned a new State law effective in 2020 relating to Criminal Justice Reform, whereby there will be no cash bails except for specific cases. He said that quality of life issues will get worse when people understand what they can get away with, citing that someone could punch another in the face with the police watching and they would not be able to arrest them. He said the Police Department will have to come up with ways to combat this. Mike Kaiser asked that a copy of the minutes be provided to the Common Council to make them aware of the Board's concerns with this proposed legalization.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2 - WEIGHT RESTRICTIONS FOR TRUCKS/CURBING TRUCK TRAFFIC ON CERTAIN CITY STREETS

Chairman Burke said that this item for discussion is a result of a letter from a resident on the corner of Hubbard Place and Route 5. Assistant City Engineer Smith said that the Engineering office has been in contact with the Empire Farms group, and the company has been addressing the truck issues with notification to drivers. He said that they have not had any recent complaints, and the City Clerk said that she had one complaint of tractor trailers coming down Hubbard Place and having a hard time turning on to West Elm Street. Kipp Hicks said that Empire Farms has projected 10 trucks in-and-out on a daily basis once they are up and running. Barb Buehner said that a tractor trailer weighs approximately 44,000 lbs. loaded, and it was noted by all that Hubbard Place is not built for that type of truck traffic. Mike Kaiser said that he would suggest a traffic order discouraging truck traffic on Hubbard Place similar to what was done by Hood. He said that the local residents will see the signs and appreciate the efforts of the Board.

Moved by Mike Kaiser
Seconded by Don White

RESOLVED, that a traffic order be prepared, whereby no truck traffic (except local delivery) signs will be placed on both ends (Genesee Street and West Elm Street) of Hubbard Place.

Ayes: 7
Nays: 0
MOTION CARRIED

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3 – PARKING ISSUES AT SENECA STREET SCHOOL

Chairman Burke said that, at the request of the Police Chief, the Seneca Street School principal sent a letter to all Seneca Street School families reinforcing their efforts of keeping children safe and advising them not to block resident's driveways. The Chairman said that this letter, along with the small sign the property owner put by the street in front of his driveway seems to have helped, as it is currently not an issue. The City Clerk suggested that possibly in the fall, Police Chief Thompson could request that the letter from the principal be sent once again, since many new students will become part of the Seneca Street School family. On a motion from Mike Kaiser and second from Barb Buehner, the Board tabled this until the July meeting.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 4 – PARKING SPACES ON EITHER SIDE OF THE DRIVEWAY
ON MADISON STREET BETWEEN THE OLD MADISON HOUSE
AND ATTORNEY JAMES BETRO'S PROPERTY**

Chairman Burke said that the entrance/exit onto Madison Street is not an alleyway, as referenced in Attorney Betro's letter (a copy of the letter was received by the Board); it is a driveway owned by the property owners on either side. The City Clerk said that she has not had any contact from Attorney Betro since she mailed him a response. Mike Kaiser said that years ago Galas taxi was located there. Lt. Little said that the Police Chief looked up the accident referenced by Attorney Betro, and the Chief felt that it was a lack of attention issue by the truck driver rather than an obstruction issue. Deputy Chief Rob Cowles said that a single incident doesn't warrant any change.

Moved by Barb Buehner
Seconded by Kathy Malinowski

RESOLVED, that the Chairman send a letter to Attorney James Betro denying the request to remove two parking spaces from Madison Street on either side of the driveway between his property and the old Madison House.

Ayes: 7
Nays: 0

MOTION CARRIED

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 5 - REQUEST FROM JOHN BORTLE, 1971 MT. HOPE AVENUE
FOR A 30 MPH SPEED LIMIT SIGN**

The City Clerk said that she spoke with Mr. Bortle today, and he stated that for a road that is only 2.5 miles long, there are several different speed limits throughout. She said that he said that areas of the road going one way are a different speed limit than going the other way. The various Board members commented on what they thought the speed limits were and their recollections differed. It was noted that there is a lot of farmland along that road and not many houses. Lt. Little said that he would check what the speed limits are on Mt. Hope Avenue and report back to the Board. The Board tabled this item to revisit at their next meeting in July.

NEW BUSINESS – None

The next scheduled meeting is Tuesday, July 16, 2019 at 2:00 p.m. in the Common Council Chambers.

Moved by Barb Buehner
The meeting is hereby adjourned at 2:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Pulverenti

City Clerk