

**CITY OF ONEIDA  
TRAFFIC SAFETY BOARD**

July 14, 2020  
2:00 p.m.

MEMBERS:

IN ATTENDANCE

Public Safety Commissioner Kevin Salerno	<u>No</u>
Police Chief Paul Thompson	<u>Yes</u>
Fire Department Assistant Chief Rob Cowles	<u>Yes</u>
Asst. City Engineer Ben Smith	<u>No</u>
Traffic Advisor Robert Anderson	<u>No</u>
Chairman Bruce Burke	<u>Yes</u>
Vice-Chairman Donald White	<u>No</u>
Barbara Buehner	<u>Yes</u>
Douglas Lippert	<u>Yes</u>
Kathy Malinowski	<u>Yes</u>
James Sweet	<u>Yes</u>
Mike Kaiser	<u>Yes</u>
Gary Hamer	<u>Yes</u>
Kipp Hicks	<u>No</u>
Erwin Smith	<u>Yes</u>
Fire Chief Dennis Fields	<u>Yes</u>

Also in attendance was Pody Vanderwall.

The regular meeting was called to order at 2:03 p.m. by Chairman Bruce Burke.

Moved by Barbara Buehner  
Seconded by Doug Lippert

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the regular meeting of January 21, 2020 are hereby approved.

Ayes: 8

Nays: 0

Absent: 2 (White, Hicks)

**MOTION CARRIED**

Erwin Smith commented on the minutes from at the last meeting when the Board discussed the possibility of allowing parking on only one side of Washington Avenue. He said that he has worked for Coolican McSweeney Funeral Home for thirty years and has not seen any problems that would warrant allowing for parking on one side of the street only. Assistant Fire Chief Rob Cowles said that he spoke with the owner of the Oneida Taxi about parking on Washington Avenue, and they have not been parking on both sides of the street that he has noticed.

Chairman Burke said that both the Fire Chief and Police Chief have another meeting to attend, so we will be doing the agenda items out of order. Chairman Burke asked Pody Vanderwall if she would mind waiting to discuss her item regarding deer crossing signs, and she said that would be fine.

### *Speed Sign Graphs*

Chief Thompson provided the Board members with a selection of graphs of information taken from the speed signs during August of 2019. He explained each graph, which outlined vehicle and speed violator counts, vehicle count by peak speed bins, vehicle counts and violators by a one-half hour count all taken at several different locations, including Broad Street at Allen Park, Upper Lenox Avenue, West Elm Street, and Seneca Street. The Chief said that these graphs help narrow down the times of most speeders. He explained that sometimes the speed signs are in stealth mode and taking the data from cars going by, but not lit up, as they are when the vehicle's speed is lit up and flashes if the speed limit is exceeded. Chief Thompson said that the signs make a difference, and the Chairman concurred. Police Chief Thompson said that lowering the speed limit in front of Allen Park to 25mph will increase the likelihood of enforcement, and he recommends doing so, as they receive many complaints for cars not stopping for people in the crosswalk. Mike Kaiser questioned if there would be a need to do this in front of the other City Parks. The Chief said that Vet's Field is a state highway. Assistant Chief Cowles said that Maxwell Field and Harmon Field are both back far enough from the roadway. Chief Thompson said that the lowest the speed limit can be citywide is 30mph, with 25mph at parks, and 15mph for school zones. The Chief said that the City Engineer is working on having Broad Street striped on both sides and down the middle. He said that as the City doesn't have the equipment for that type of project, the City Engineer has reached out to the County for this project.

### *Discussion of Possible Unauthorized Signs at Rent-A-Center*

The Board discussed the unauthorized placement of two signs in front of Rent-A-Center in Glenwood Plaza. Assistant Fire Chief Cowles said that they have been allowed to load and unload only in front of the business, but they are not allowed to park there. Erwin Smith said that he believes the City Code allows for Police to enforce handicap parking and fire zone violations on private property, such as Glenwood Plaza and Walmart. After a short discussion, it was agreed that the Police Chief would send the Community Service Officer to Rent-A-Center to request the removal of their signs and remind them there is no parking in the fire lane. The Chief said should they remain uncompliant, then we will have to go further with this.

### *Discussion of Lowering Speed Limit Between the Seneca Street Elementary and High School*

Police Chief Thompson said that it makes perfect sense to extend the lower speed limit the short distance between the schools. He said that there are kids in the entire area.

Motion by Erwin Smith  
Seconded by Mike Kaiser

**RESOLVED**, that a Traffic Order be prepared extending the 20mph speed limit to include the area between the Seneca Street School and the Oneida High School.

Ayes: 7  
Nays: 1 (Buehner)  
Absent: 2 (White, Hicks)  
**MOTION CARRIED**

Barbara Buehner said that she didn't feel this was necessary, as everyone knows that you have to slow down in front of the schools.

*Discussion of Lowering Speed Limit on W. Elm St.*

The City Clerk said that West Elm Street is a County owned road from Wampsville to the area of Fitch Street, and the City cannot just change the speed limit there. Doug Lippert said that this is similar to the request regarding Mt. Hope Avenue that we dealt with previously. After discussion, the Board was all in favor of the speed limit being lowered in that area. Chairman Burke said that he will prepare a letter of recommendation for the Madison County Traffic Safety Board and the Police Chief, who is a member of that Board, will take the recommendation to their next meeting.

*Lower Speed Limit in the Allen Park Area*

Chairman Burke said that lowering the speed limit in the Allen Park area was discussed earlier and asked if anyone would like to make a motion.

Moved by Douglas Lippert  
Seconded by Gary Hamer

**RESOLVED**, that a Traffic Order be prepared lowering the speed limit on Broad Street to 25mph in front of Allen Park from Dodge Street (across from the truck entrance of HP Hood) and continuing to the end of the park at Allen Park Place.

Ayes: 8  
Nays: 0  
Absent: 2 (White, Hicks)  
**MOTION CARRIED**

*Deer Crossing Signs on Kenwood Avenue*

Pody Vanderwall, Oneida said that she is here to advocate for a modification to the two existing leaping deer signs on Kenwood Avenue. She displayed a map of the area depicting where the signs are located, noting that the growing numbers of deer come across the golf course to the greenery by Oneida Creek and across the street. She said that she is requesting that on the bottom of each leaping deer sign that it state "one mile" with added reflective tape on the signs as well. The Chairman stated that Bob Anderson should be able to make those additions to the two current signs. Ms. Vanderwall thanked the Board for their time.

Moved by Erwin Smith  
Seconded by Barbara Buehner

**RESOLVED**, that a Traffic Order be prepared for the placement of "one mile" signs to be placed under the two leaping deer signs currently located on Kenwood Avenue, and further approve that reflective tape be added to the existing signs.

Ayes: 8  
Nays: 0  
Absent: 2 (White, Hicks)  
**MOTION CARRIED**

*Maple Drive Traffic Signs*

The City Clerk said that the Assistant City Engineer could not be at the meeting today. She said that he sent an email for discussion regarding Maple Drive, which is across the street from Oneida High School. On both ends of Maple Drive there are Yield signs rather than Stop signs. The Assistant City Engineer said that entering into a school zone, he feels that those signs could be more of a danger to kids than helpful for continuing traffic flow. He said that he was unaware if the signs had been changed in the past, but feels that a Stop sign in those locations would increase the safety of any child walking to and from the high school towards Route 5. The Board was in agreeance and recommended a Traffic Order be prepared.

Moved by Erwin Smith

Seconded by Doug Lippert

**RESOLVED**, that a Traffic Order be prepared to remove the Yield signs from both ends of Maple Drive and to replace said signs with Stop signs.

Ayes: 8

Nays: 0

Absent: 2 (White, Hicks)

**MOTION CARRIED**

The next scheduled meeting is October 20, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. in the Common Council Chambers.

Motion to adjourn Doug Lippert

Seconded by: Mike Kaiser

Absent: 2 (White, Hicks)

**MOTION CARRIED**

The meeting is hereby adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Pulverenti  
City Clerk