

**Minutes
Township of Falls
Neighborhood Traffic Advisory Committee**

December 12, 2022

Members in Attendance:

Amy Gallagher
Ariane Presser
Leon Thompson

Members Absent:

Ian James
Robert Leary

Also in Attendance:

Chief Nelson Whitney, Falls Township Police Department
Josh Seeherman, Remington & Vernick Engineers, Inc. (RVE Traffic Engineer)

Chief Whitney opened the meeting at 6:33 p.m.

The minutes from the December 12, 2022 meeting were approved with one changes.

Chief Whitney said his department is not participating in the PennDot Aggressive Driving Wave during the winter months. They will conduct speed studies as they come up, and address complaints as they arise. The Chief asked Mr. Seeherman if he can come up with a figure to conduct a town-wide traffic calming study. Mr. Seeherman will confer with his colleagues.

Ms. Gallagher said she liked the speed signs that are back up on N. Olds Boulevard. The Chief said there hasn't been any complaints about them. Ms. Gallagher said vehicles are still speeding though.

Chief Whitney said after the last meeting, he did share some speed data with some citizens that came to the previous meeting. But there hasn't been any new complaints or inquiries. Ms. Gallagher asked if we heard anymore from the residents who want more stop signs in the Thornridge section. The Chief said he has not heard anything further. Mr. Seeherman said the people on Twin Leaf find it hard to make a left turn because they can't see vehicles coming around the turn and there are vehicles parked too close to the intersection. The Chief said he can restrict parking on a temporary basis, but the residents who can't park in front of their own homes will not be happy. The resident wanted a three-way stop sign.

Mr. Thompson said he was told by a previous Public Works director that you cannot use a stop sign to enforce traffic speeds. Mr. Seeherman agreed and said that stop signs and traffic lights are for safety at intersections, not speed reduction.

Mr. Seeherman discussed winter weather and driving conditions related to the public works department. Mr. Thompson reported that the public works department used to use cinders and salt on

the roads, but now they just use salt. Mr. Thompson said the biggest concern is just getting the vehicles off the street so they can plow effectively. Chief Whitney said the County uses a system called EVERBRIDGE to send public service alerts to residents of certain townships. Our residents currently do not have access to EVERBRIDGE. We use our social media platforms to notify residents about snow emergencies and to remove all vehicles off of all streets.

Mr. Thompson reported that once the snow has stopped, it takes between 8 – 9 hours for the plowing to be finished. Chief Whitney said our road crew usually plows faster than PennDot plows the state roads. Mr. Thompson informed that we don't plow state roads, except for maybe the deceleration lanes.

Mr. Seeherman brought up the left turn situation at the high school on Hood Blvd. There was a proposal a few years ago, so it was looked at before. To go forward, there is a conflict calculation that would need to be done again. To make a left turn signal there, we would need to get a new signal head, wire it, and update the cabinet. Most of the equipment is already there. The senior traffic engineer at RVE didn't think it was a big deal, once we prove to PennDot the necessity of it. Chief Whitney then asked who would bear the cost of this. Mr. Seeherman said PennDot would probably put this cost in their capital budget improvement plan. The next step would be to hire a traffic data collection company to conduct a count during the appropriate hours. Say we did the study from 7 a.m. to 9 a.m., 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. to 6 p.m. at \$50/hour would be \$300. Then \$500,000 to process it and do the report. Chief Whitney said we will talk to Mr. Leary about the actual best hours for the study and then he will speak to the township manager about this.

Ms. Gallagher asked if we are picking signs. Chief Whitney said we can get a quote from FastSigns. We can start with one type of campaign and pivot to something else later. It would be nice to roll this campaign out in the spring. Ms. Gallagher asked if FastSigns will give us a discount. Chief Whitney said he can ask them.

There was no other business.

Meeting adjourned 7:00 p.m.