



**UTV Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 29, 2021
11:00 a.m.**

Third Floor Boardroom, Old Lee County Courthouse
112 E Second St, Dixon, Illinois 61021

Meeting called to order at 11:00 a.m. by Chair Jack Skrogstad

Member Roll Call: Chair Jack Skrogstad, Danielle Allen (zoom), Kasey Considine (zoom), Keane Hudson, John Nicholson (serving in an alternate member capacity);

Members absent: Tom Wilson

Board Members, Department Heads, or County Employees present: John Simonton (Sheriff), Wendy Ryerson (Administrator)

Approval of Previous Minutes (No previous meetings.)

Public Comment: Chair Skrogstad opened the floor for comments from the public.

- Clay Whalen, Dixon Police Department, speaking in a personal capacity, spoke in favor of a County UTV ordinance, noting that the City of Dixon has had a UTV Ordinance for a least 5 years and have had no issues.
- Steve Dilger, Blackhawk Trail Riders Club, spoke in favor of an ordinance, noting the City of Dixon has an estimated 679 registered users which has generated over \$33,000 of revenue.
- Donna Jungels, West Brooklyn business owner, spoke in favor of an ordinance, stating that she appreciates the business of these riders.
- Mark Cecchetti, Lee County property owner, noted there are "many issues" on Lowell Park Road. He noted before permitting the operation of non-highway vehicles, the County must consider the volume, speed, and character of traffic in the roadway, and determine whether non-highway vehicles may safely travel or across the roadway. He is questioning the safety of UTV's on the public roadways. He presented a number documents to the Committee for consideration. (see attached documents)
- Cheryl Smith, Lee County property owner, and UTV owner, spoke in favor of an ordinance, noting UTV drivers are the same drivers that drive a car. UTV's have similar safety features (seat belts, headlights, roll bars, etc.) to an automobile and are just as safe.
- John Schamberger, Mayor of Amboy, submitted a letter to the Committee in support of an ordinance. The City of Amboy has had a UTV Ordinance in place for five years and have had minimal issues. He noted these riders support both large and small businesses.

Old Business

(None)

New Business

Chair Skrogstad referenced a document (attached) in which Sheriff Simonton listed his concerns/questions. He noted the Sheriff was in attendance and could address or elaborate on the various items.

The Sheriff stated his biggest concern is what is happening in Mercer County, specifically that the speed limit has been reduced to 35 mph to accommodate the UTV traffic on certain roads. Other vehicle traffic in the area objects to the reduced speed limit.

Chair Skrogstad clarified that the proposed Lee County UTV Ordinance would eliminate the 35 mph speed law conflict, by defining the UTV's covered under the Lee County Ordinance as non-highway vehicle between 65" or more to 70" wide. Per the Illinois Vehicle Code a non-highway vehicle that is defined as being 64" or less (requiring a speed limit of 35 mph).

Chair Skrogstad addressed some of the other items on the Sheriff's list. Sheriff Simonton stated he is willing to collect permit fees in the Sheriff's department, however he noted he would request the guidance of the Treasurer's office to ensure transparency and sufficient fee collection protocols are in place. There was further discussion on 1) the use of plates verses decals, 2) an annual registration/fee or bi-annual, 3) a different (50% less) fee structure after the first year, and 4) offering an out-of-county fee structure for visitors. Items identified for initial registration include, proof of insurance, registration, and photos of the UTV. Chair Skrogstad suggested waiting for more information on the cost of the plates (or decals) to determine an appropriate fee.

Member Considine questioned the need for annual inspections, noting it is not necessary for cars or trucks to be inspected in Illinois. Member Allen agreed it would not be necessary. Sheriff Simonton noted that if there is not a requirement to inspect, it would not be necessary for the Sheriff's Department to handle the permits/fees. Chair Skrogstad was leaning in favor of the Sheriff's Department handling the permitting, because the information collected could be entered into a law enforcement database for retrieval by deputies if/when necessary.

Regarding insurance, Chair Skrogstad shared with the committee information he obtained from TOIRMA. (Townships of Illinois Risk Management Association.) that the only additional cost would be if a particular township wanted to increase their liability coverage. Wendy Ryerson confirmed she contacted Lisa Miller (Gallagher), Lee County's insurance representative, and they confirmed the proposed ordinance would not increase rates but it may increase the risk of a potential claim.

Chair Skrogstad shifted the committee's attention to the proposed ordinance. Discussion items included 1) the minimum age of 16, and 2) when it would be lawful to cross other roads not permitted for UTV's, and 3) the windshield and wiper requirement. Chair Skrogstad will follow up with State's Attorney Boonstra for clarification on items 2 and 3.

Chair Skrogstad stated the next action item is to seek approval from Lee County townships. Member Considine suggested dividing up the list between committee members and begin reaching out to township road commissioners.

Member Allen made a motion to adjourn; seconded by member Hudson; motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 12:01 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Wendy Ryerson, County Administrator

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, October 6, 2021 at 12:30 p.m.