



To: Mayor and Board of Commissioners
From: Percy T. Crutchfield, Chief of Police
CC: Bryan Gruesbeck, Town Manager
Alice Lloyd, Town Clerk
Paul Messick, Town Attorney
Ref: Golf Cart Ordinance Amendment

Date: September 25, 2015

Background: During the May 11, 2015 board meeting the town was asked to consider implementing an ordinance that would allow golf carts to be operated on the Town Streets. The Board requested that I and the Manager consider this matter and bring it back to the board sometime in August. On August 24th, 2015 I made a presentation to the board with a summary of my findings and a sample ordinance written for their review. During the discussion I briefly mentioned that based on the information that I had received the board may want to consider the requirement of seat belts, at least for young passengers because of the possible injuries that small rides receive from falling out of the carts when they make sharp left turns. The Board requested that I look into this further and report back.

Update: Based on the statistics I received roughly 40% of all golf cart accidents involve a person falling out of the cart, many of which involve young children. Based on this information some organizations suggest the installation and use of seat belts. There are others that don't recommend seat belts since golf carts do not have a rollover protective structure. The state and federal guidelines for street legal low speed vehicles do require seatbelts as noted in section five of the North Carolina General Statute 21-121.1

Based on the boards request I have amended the previously submitted ordinance and added the seat belt requirement as worded in the federal regulations. I have attached a copy of the amended ordinance for your review and recommendations.

Action requested: For the Board of Commissioners to receive the information and determine the need for an ordinance and its restrictions approving the use of golf carts on town streets.