

GOLF CARTS ON COUNTY ROADS

BOARD OF COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS MEETING
MAY 5, 2020



BACKGROUND

- Requested by Board on February 18, 2020
- Sheriff's report January 1, 2018 to April 15, 2020
 - Four written citations involving golf carts
 - Jensen Beach Blvd – unlawful use
 - Jensen Beach Blvd – hit and run involving DUI
 - Causeway Blvd – unlawful use
 - Palm City – theft
 - 3 of 7 written warnings in neighborhoods
 - 17 of 49 verbal warnings in neighborhoods

BACKGROUND

- F.S. 316.212 golf carts are prohibited on County roads, unless
 - Determined that golf carts may safely travel
 - Designated by County for use by golf carts
 - Signed appropriately
- None designated in unincorporated Martin County

BACKGROUND

- F.S. 316.2122 low-speed vehicles allowed on County roads
 - Posted speed 35 MPH or less
 - Equipment required
 - Lamps (head, stop, tail)
 - Turn signal
 - Reflex reflector
 - Parking brake
 - Rearview mirror
 - Windshield
 - Seat belt
 - Vehicle identification number
 - Registered and insured
 - Operated by licensed driver

BACKGROUND

Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles Guide to Owning LOW SPEED VEHICLES

A low speed vehicle (LSV) is a vehicle with a top speed greater than 20 MPH, but not greater than 25 MPH. **LSVs must be registered, titled and insured** with personal injury protection (PIP) and property damage liability (PDL) insurance. **Any person operating an LSV must have a valid driver license. LSVs may only be operated on streets where the posted speed limit is 35 MPH or less.**

LSVs must be equipped with the following safety equipment:



POTENTIAL ORDINANCE

- Suggested Process
 - Petition supported by 2/3rd of the property owners
 - Staff determination of compliance
 - Board Resolution
 - Sheriff's notification
 - Signage

POTENTIAL ORDINANCE

- Suggested Parameters
 - Operated between 6:00 am and 10:00 pm
 - Equipped with headlights, brake lights, turn signals, windshield, efficient brakes, reliable steering, safe tires, rearview mirror, and front and rear reflectorized warning devices
 - Not operated by persons under the age of 16

POTENTIAL ORDINANCE

- Suggested Parameters
 - Operated on roads posted at 30 MPH or less
 - In neighborhoods with no more than four access points to a major roadway
 - Prohibited from crossing State roads or roads posted more than 35 MPH

CONSEQUENCES

- Additional regulations
- Additional enforcement
- Potential safety issues
- Potential liability issues
- Additional education and awareness
- Additional time processing / reviewing requests
- Additional signage

DISCUSSION

