



ROCK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Highways & Parks

3715 Newville Road, Janesville, WI 53545
Phone: (608)757-5450 Fax: (608)757-5470
www.co.rock.wi.us

Public Works Committee Meeting – Highway

March 24, 2026 – 8:00 a.m.

Public Works Department – Committee Room

3715 Newville Road

Janesville, WI 53545

Call to Order: Chair Mawhinney called the meeting of the Public Works Committee to order at 8:00 a.m.

Committee Members Present: Supervisors Homan, Mawhinney, Pennycook, Sutter, and Woodman.

Committee Members Absent: None

<u>Staff Members:</u>	Duane Jorgenson	Public Works Director
	Nick Elmer	Assistant Director Public Works
	Amanda McElroy	Administrative Professional III

<u>Others Present:</u>	Chris Hipsky	Citizen
	Rick Ellis	Department of Public Works

Approval of Agenda: Supervisor Pennycook moved approval of the agenda as presented, seconded by Supervisor Homan. ADOPTED.

Approval of Minutes Dated February 24, 2026, and March 10, 2026: Supervisor Woodman moved approval of the minutes from February 24, 2026, and March 10, 2026, as presented, seconded by Supervisor Sutter. ADOPTED.

Citizen Participation, Communications and Announcements: Chris Hipsky referenced the Rock County Driveway Access Policy that states *“driveway shall not be located on a roadway if there is an alternative to locate the access on another roadway with a lower daily traffic count.”* He asked that his pending field entrance driveway permit on CTH KK be approved because he counted more cars on E Six Corners Rd than CTH KK. This item may be on a future agenda.

A public comment submitted by Scott Fleming was read aloud detailing his concerns about salt usage and garbage removal on town roads. Two photographs were shared. Supervisor Sutter noted that Union Township now accepts tires at the dump free of charge to avoid having them dumped on town roads. Mr. Ellis added that tire disposal fees have increased.

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Supervisor Mawhinney thanked staff for their work over the years. Supervisor Woodman thanked Supervisor Mawhinney and Supervisor Homan for their service on the County Board and Public Works Committee. Mr. Jorgenson expressed his gratitude to Supervisor Mawhinney and Supervisor Homan for their service.

Supervisor Mawhinney asked staff to ensure the parks fund remains in the budget.

REVIEW, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

Discussion and Possible Action – Issue Paper – Adopt-A-Highway Policy: Mr. Jorgenson discussed the benefits of establishing an Adopt-A-Highway program for county roads, including improved roadway aesthetics, potentially minimizing damage to equipment, and giving people an opportunity to volunteer. The county highway system has been divided into designated sections, averaging 2.1 miles, that can be adopted by volunteers. Volunteers are asked to conduct two clean-ups per year, between May 20 – June 5 and August 15 – September 15, ahead of county mowing efforts. All participants are required to sign a waiver, must be at least 11 years old or in 6th grade, and shall be supervised by one adult for every five or six minors. Upfront costs are estimated at approximately \$1,500, with minimal ongoing costs for garbage bags. Supervisor Woodman moved the Adopt-A-Highway Policy, seconded by Supervisor Pennycook. ADOPTED.

Discussion – WCHA Update: Mr. Jorgenson shared that he attended the WCHA Legislative Day on March 17, 2026, at the State Capitol for the first time. He added that Mr. Elmer and himself will be attending the WCHA Spring Commissioner’s Training on March 31 – April 1, 2026, in Green Lake.

Discussion – Staff Update: Mr. Elmer shared that Shop Superintendent Neil Pierce is retiring on April 10, 2026. Interviews were conducted with four internal candidates and two external candidates. The department hopes to make a selection in the next week to benefit from training overlap.

Two highway workers have resigned since the last staff update to pursue other opportunities. There is one person left on the eligibility list from the last recruitment, and a new recruitment will be started to create a new eligibility list.

REVIEW OF PAYMENTS

February 2026 Payments: Mr. Jorgenson answered questions from the Committee.

Next Meeting Date and Time:

To Be Determined After Spring Election

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Minutes of the Rock County Public Works Committee- Highway
March 24, 2026

Adjournment: Supervisor Homan moved adjournment at 8:29 a.m., seconded by Supervisor Mawhinney. ADOPTED.

Respectfully Submitted,
Amanda McElroy, Administrative Professional III

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