



ROCK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Highways & Parks

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Public Works Committee Meeting – Highway

Tuesday, May 26, 2026 – 8:00 a.m.

Public Works Department – Committee Room
3715 Newville Road
Janesville, WI 53545

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

Committee Members Present: Supervisors Brown, Fleming, Pennycook (attended on Zoom), Sutter, and Woodman.

Committee Members Absent: None.

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

Others Present: None

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

Election of Chair: Temporary Chair Woodman opened the floor for nominations. Supervisor Sutter nominated Temporary Chair Woodman, seconded by Supervisor Pennycook. ADOPTED.

Election of Vice Chair: Chair Woodman opened the floor for nominations. Supervisor Fleming nominated Supervisor Sutter, seconded by Supervisor Pennycook. ADOPTED.

Set Meeting Date and Time: The Committee agreed to continue meeting on the second (Parks) and fourth (Highway) Tuesday of each month. Motion by Supervisor Sutter to change the meeting start time to 7:30 a.m. going forward, seconded by Supervisor Brown. ADOPTED.

Approval of Minutes Dated May 12, 2026: Supervisor Fleming moved approval of the minutes from May 12, 2026, as presented, seconded by Supervisor Sutter. ADOPTED.

NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY COMMITTEE

Citizen Participation, Communications and Announcements: Mr. Traynor invited everyone to attend the Randy Reilly Pavilion Dedication on Thursday, June 4, 2026, at 3pm at Rock River Heritage Park. A memorial plaque will be unveiled in his honor. Mr. Reilly was a former Public Works employee who tragically lost his life in an accident while on duty.

Mr. Traynor added that “All About the Kids” is on Saturday, May 30, 2026, from 10am-12pm at Rock River Heritage Park.

Mr. Traynor shared that David Grenawalt’s Celebration of Life is on Saturday, May 30, 2026, from 11am-2pm at the Newark Town Hall. Mr. Grenawalt was a longstanding member of the Wisconsin Towns Association and former Town of Newark Chair.

Mr. Jorgenson noted that the WCHA Summer Road School is June 8-10, 2026, at the Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells.

Mr. Jorgenson added that he is a panelist at the Turnout for Transportation event on Thursday, May 28, 2026, from 7:30am-9am at the Woodman Center. The event is free to attend, but registration is required.

Mr. Jorgenson shared that Emergency Management Director Kevin Wernet, Rock County Sheriff Curt Fell, and himself will be providing a status update regarding the April 17 Storm at the Rock County Board Meeting on Thursday, May 28, 2026.

Supervisor Woodman added that he received a lot of positive feedback about the Department’s storm response.

REVIEW, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

Discussion – Annual Town Meetings: Mr. Jorgenson explained that the 14 Towns the Department contracts with for routine maintenance, winter plowing, and projects will be given the opportunity to address the Committee and provide feedback. The dates were confirmed with the Committee, and will be Tuesday, June 16, and Thursday, June 18, 2026, from 7:30am-11am.

Discussion – Sandbagging Units: Mr. Jorgenson explained that a Resolution on the agenda for the Finance Committee and County Board would authorize the purchase of two sandbagging units and the development of a mobile app to protect property and increase communication. Rock County does not own any sandbagging machines and must rely on other sources during flooding events, which are not always readily available or may already be deployed in other areas. One of the units can fill approximately 1,600 sandbags an hour with unskilled labor. The \$85,000 cost will require a budget amendment to use available funds from unfilled administrative positions.

*Minutes of the Rock County Public Works Committee – Parks
May 26, 2026*

Next Meeting Date and Time:

Parks Meeting: Tuesday, June 9, 2026, at 7:30 a.m. at the Department of Public Works.

Highway Meeting: Tuesday, June 23, 2026, at 7:30 a.m. at the Department of Public Works.

Adjournment: Supervisor Sutter moved adjournment at 8:40 a.m., seconded by Supervisor Brown. ADOPTED.

Respectfully Submitted,
Amanda McElroy, Administrative Professional III