



ROCK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Highways & Parks

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Public Works Committee Meeting – Highway

August 25, 2026 – 7:30 a.m.

Public Works Department – Committee Room

3715 Newville Road

Janesville, WI 53545

Call to Order: Chair Woodman called the meeting of the Public Works Committee to order at 7:30 a.m.

Committee Members Present: Supervisors Brown, Fleming, and Woodman

Committee Members Absent: Supervisor Sutter

Staff Members:

Duane Jorgenson

Public Works Director

Nick Elmer

Assistant Director Public Works

Amanda McElroy

Administrative Professional III

Others Present:

Nomad Transparency Show

Attended on Zoom

Rick Ellis

Public Works

Karl Fenrick

Public Works

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

Approval of Minutes Dated July 28, 2026: Supervisor Brown moved approval of the minutes from July 28, 2026, as presented, seconded by Supervisor Fleming. ADOPTED.

Citizen Participation, Communications and Announcements: Mr. Jorgenson shared that two open meetings were held with town officials on Monday, August 25, 2026. Discussion was had about adjusting routine maintenance rates.

REVIEW, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

Discussion and Possible Action – Issue Paper – MP-2026-1 – Motor Pool 25 Replacement: Mr. Elmer explained that this is a scheduled budgeted replacement and Human Services is downsizing to a smaller Kia Carnival minivan. The replacement vehicle will better fit their needs, has a lower purchase price, and lower maintenance costs. Supervisor Fleming moved the Issue Paper, seconded by Supervisor Brown. ADOPTED.

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Discussion and Possible Action – Issue Paper – MP-2026-2 – Motor Pool 47 Replacement: Mr. Elmer explained that the 2019 Chevrolet Impala used by Human Services was scheduled for replacement later this year. Due to continued maintenance issues with acceleration and braking, it will be replaced early with a Chevrolet Equinox. Supervisor Brown moved the Issue Paper, seconded by Supervisor Fleming. ADOPTED.

Discussion – Budget Presentation Summary: Mr. Jorgenson gave a brief overview of the proposed Highway Division budget for 2027. The full presentation occurred on July 8, 2026, and can be viewed online on the Rock County website.

Mr. Jorgenson emphasized that the county does not subsidize the towns, noting the towns pay for the services (time and materials) received. The towns are charged a flat winter maintenance rate per mile that is regularly reviewed and adjusted. He also discussed departmental responsibilities, proposed construction projects for 2027-2031 and beyond, Paser ratings, and a financial summary.

Discussion – Brine Water Line Install: Mr. Jorgenson explained that installing a 3-inch water line will increase the department's brine making capacity. Using brine is cheaper and better for the environment. A request for quotes was posted, three quotes were received, and Helm Service was the lowest at \$49,410. The project was approved by the General Services Committee, will be administered by Facilities Management, and will come out of the Public Works brine budget.

Discussion – FEMA Update: Mr. Elmer discussed the FEMA Public Assistance Process for storm damages that occurred between April 13-23, 2026. On Thursday, August 27, 2026, FEMA will be on site to review documented damage expenses from 10 towns and the county. FEMA uses three main categories to determine eligibility, Debris Clearance (A), Emergency Response (B), and Roads and Bridges (C). Roadway classification also impacts eligibility. Eligible expenses, with a few exceptions, are reimbursed at 75% (federal) and 12.5% (state).

REVIEW OF PAYMENTS

July 2026 Payments: The Committee had no questions. Mr. Jorgenson noted that the report shows the last line item from an invoice, which can be misleading.

Next Meeting Date and Time:

Parks Meeting: Tuesday, September 8, 2026, at 7:30 a.m. at the Department of Public Works

Highway Meeting: Tuesday, September 22, 2026, at 7:30 a.m. at the Department of Public Works

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Minutes of the Rock County Public Works Committee- Highway
August 25, 2026

Adjournment: Supervisor Brown moved adjournment at 8:14 a.m., seconded by Supervisor Fleming. ADOPTED.

Respectfully Submitted,
Amanda McElroy, Administrative Professional III

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