



ROCK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Highways & Parks

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Public Works Committee Meeting – Highway

August 27, 2024 – 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

Staff Members:

Duane Jorgenson	Public Works Director
Nick Elmer	Assistant Director Public Works
Amanda McElroy	Administrative Professional II

Others Present:

Chuck Flynn	Citizen (attended in person and on Zoom)
Joe Brown	Department of Public Works
Bob Buchanan	Department of Public Works
Henry Bunts	Department of Public Works
Gary Cerny	Department of Public Works
Troy Christensen	Department of Public Works
Gavin Decker	Department of Public Works
Alex Dolgner	Department of Public Works
Karl Fenrick	Department of Public Works
Bob Gunn	Department of Public Works
Logan Harrup	Department of Public Works
David Higginbotham	Department of Public Works
Tim Horton	Department of Public Works
Loren Jacobson	Department of Public Works
Tim Jass	Department of Public Works
Chris Keller	Department of Public Works
Mike Landis	Department of Public Works
Mike Laudon	Department of Public Works
Sara McCarty	Department of Public Works (Zoom)
Jason Niemeier	Department of Public Works

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Scott Nimz	Department of Public Works
Randy Nowakowski	Department of Public Works
Neil Pierce	Department of Public Works (Zoom)
Pat Quirk	Department of Public Works
Tom Speich	Department of Public Works
John Traynor	Department of Public Works (Zoom)
Kevin Welch	Department of Public Works
Patrick Willner	Department of Public Works
Rich Woods	Department of Public Works
Dave Wywial	Department of Public Works
Ed Youderin	Department of Public Works
Josh Brand	Facilities Management
Patrick Garvin	Milton Mason Lodge

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

Approval of Minutes Dated July 23, 2024: Supervisor Woodman moved approval of the minutes from July 23, 2024, as presented, seconded by Supervisor Sutter. ADOPTED.

Citizen Participation, Communications and Announcements: Patrick Garvin, Milton Mason Lodge, requested permission to post signs about the Mason Lodge on roads coming into Milton.

Henry Bunts, Jason Neimeier, and Dave Higginbotham spoke against the changes to how much comp time employees can bank (reduced from 100 hours to 80 hours) and when it can be earned (employees can no longer bank comp time from mid-December until the end of the year). Bob Buchanan spoke against the changes to comp time and the insurance premiums employees will soon be required to contribute to. Karl Fenrick discussed issues with staff wages, comp time, and insurance.

Supervisor Mawhinney thanked staff for coming.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF RESOLUTIONS

Recognizing Troy DeVault: Supervisor Homan moved the Resolution, seconded by Supervisor Pennycook. ADOPTED.

REVIEW, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

Discussion – Budget Presentation Summary: Mr. Jorgenson gave a brief overview of the proposed Highway Division budget for 2025. The full presentation occurred on August 1, 2024, and can be viewed online on the Rock County website.

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Discussion was had amongst the Committee about drafting a Resolution to reinstate the comp bank balance back to the original 100 hours.

Discussion – Quarterly Equipment Purchases Review: Mr. Elmer reviewed the 2024 2nd quarter equipment purchases and explained the implications to the 2022, 2023, and 2024 budget cycles. The 2022 budget cycle is over budget by \$90.91. The Committee concurred with Mr. Jorgenson's suggestion to use funds from the 2024 budget cycle to cover the difference.

Discussion – Project Update: Mr. Elmer gave an update on 2024 projects for the State, County, and Towns, highlighting completed, ongoing, and upcoming projects. A separate account was created to track all the tornado expenses. The Town of Rock was billed for the tornado clean-up and is currently working with the Wisconsin Disaster Fund for possible partial reimbursement.

Discussion – Town Winter Rates: Mr. Jorgenson explained that the towns are currently billed a flat rate for winter maintenance of \$900/mile for rural roads and \$1,600/mile for subdivision roads, which is below averaged annual department costs. On August 21, Mr. Jorgenson met with the towns to review costs and discuss the rates. A 10-year average was used to account for the variance between light and heavy winters. Mr. Jorgenson is proposing adjusting the winter maintenance rates to \$940/mile for rural roads and \$1,670/mile for subdivision roads.

Discussion – Staff Update: Mr. Elmer shared that there are currently seven vacancies in the Highway Department and two vacancies in the Parks Department. The highway positions were recently posted without the CDL requirement, and 24 applications were received. Of those applications, four applicants have a Class A CDL, and two applicants have a Class B CDL. Nine interviews are scheduled tomorrow (8/28) and include all six applicants with a CDL license along with three who do not have one. Staff that do not have a CDL license can obtain one through the Department's training program with Blackhawk Technical College.

Mr. Jorgenson added that other options are being explored, including cuts to service, using seasonal workers, or creating a pool of past/retired employees who would be willing to help fill-in when needed. The current crew would be offered any work load opportunities first.

Supervisor Mawhinney expressed her appreciation and thanked staff for their work.

REVIEW OF PAYMENTS

July 2024 Payments: Mr. Jorgenson answered questions from the committee.

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Minutes of the Rock County Public Works Committee- Highway
August 27, 2024

Next Meeting Date and Time:

Parks Meeting: Tuesday, September 10, 2024, at 8:00 a.m. at the Department of Public Works.

Highway Meeting: Tuesday, September 24, 2024, at 8:00 a.m. at the Department of Public Works.

Adjournment: Supervisor Pennycook moved adjournment at 9:09 a.m., seconded by Supervisor Homan. ADOPTED.

Respectfully Submitted,
Amanda McElroy, Administrative Professional II

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