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# ROCK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

## *Highways & Parks*

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### Public Works Committee Meeting – Highway

July 22, 2025 – 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, 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:

|             |                            |
|-------------|----------------------------|
| Chuck Flynn | Citizen (Zoom)             |
| Brad Reents | City of Janesville (Zoom)  |
| Rick Ellis  | Department of Public Works |

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

Approval of Minutes Dated June 24, 2025: Supervisor Pennycook moved approval of the minutes from June 24, 2025, as presented, seconded by Supervisor Woodman. ADOPTED.

Citizen Participation, Communications and Announcements: Mr. Jorgenson shared that he received multiple copies of the 2025 Wisconsin Transportation Annual magazine. This publication provides details about state projects as well as contact information for county and state representatives. The Committee is welcome to take a copy.

Mr. Jorgenson and Mr. Elmer provided an update about the closed short span structures, noting that they have met with the DNR (Department of Natural Resources), and have a meeting this afternoon with Andrew Baker from Land Conservation to go over the process and requirements for rehabilitation or replacement. If an affected short span structure is in a flood plain, a full hydraulic analysis will be required. Town representatives are welcome to meet with the

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department to create a plan to address the short span structures in their jurisdiction. Despite the frustration with the closures, the county must err on the side of safety to avoid potential liability. Questions remain about state funding and how it will be awarded.

## **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF RESOLUTIONS**

Amending 3.103 of the Rock County Code of Ordinances (Public Peace and Order, Part 1 – Traffic Code): Supervisor Homan moved the Ordinance, seconded by Supervisor Pennycook. Mr. Jorgenson went over the changes and corrections in the ordinance. A 35-mph speed zone was added for the portion of Afton Rd/CTH D that Rock County obtained from a jurisdictional transfer with the City of Janesville, and the 35-mph speed zone was removed for the portion of CTH G that the City of Janesville is now responsible for maintaining. The ordinance language was updated to reflect the correct and posted speed limit of 40-mph on CTH G north of the City of Beloit. The 35-mph speed zone on CTH O was extended through an industrial and business area, eliminating the 40-mph speed zone, resulting in one speed change. Lastly, the City of Janesville had a speed study completed for West Court Street and CTH WC, and it was recommended to reduce the 45-mph speed zone to 40-mph. ADOPTED.

## **REVIEW, DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION**

Discussion and Possible Action – ATV Route Application(s) – Town of Milton: Mr. Elmer shared that the Town of Milton applied for CTH M to be designated as an ATV Route within town jurisdiction. After considering the recreational value, terrain involved, traffic density, and accident history, it was recommended to approve CTH M as an ATV Route. Supervisor Pennycook moved the ATV Route Application, seconded by Supervisor Woodman. ADOPTED.

Discussion – Semi – Annual Report on Attendance at Conferences/Conventions: Mr. Jorgenson explained that every six months any training that is over \$1,000 must be reported to the Committee. During the first six months of 2025, two employees completed CDL training at Blackhawk Technical College and seven employees attended the World of Asphalt Conference. Mr. Elmer added that the cost difference for the two employees who completed CDL training was due to their levels of experience. One employee already had a Class B CDL, and the other employee did not have any prior experience and needed additional training hours to prepare for the road test.

Discussion – Quarterly Equipment Purchases Review: Mr. Elmer reviewed the 2025 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter equipment purchases and explained the implications to the 2023, 2024, and 2025 budget cycles. There have been issues with cancellations and delays in obtaining truck chassis. Discussion was had about the value of building the trucks in-house, but this would require a significant investment in facility upgrades and the hiring of additional qualified staff. All three budget cycles are currently projected to be under budget.

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## **REVIEW OF PAYMENTS**

June 2025 Payments: Mr. Jorgenson answered questions from the Committee.

### Next Meeting Date and Time:

Parks Meeting: Tuesday, August 12, 2025 - CANCELLED

Highway Meeting: Tuesday, August 26, 2025, at 8:00 a.m. at the Department of Public Works.

Parks Meeting: Tuesday, September 9, 2025, at 8:00 a.m. at the Department of Public Works

Adjournment: Supervisor Pennycook moved adjournment at 8:49 a.m., seconded by Supervisor Homan. ADOPTED.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Amanda McElroy, Administrative Professional III