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# ROCK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

## *Highways & Parks*

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Public Works Committee Meeting – Highway

September 23, 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 Sutter

Committee Members Absent: Supervisor Woodman

Staff Members:

|                 |                                 |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|
| Duane Jorgenson | Public Works Director           |
| Nick Elmer      | Assistant Director Public Works |
| Amanda McElroy  | Administrative Professional III |

Others Present:

|              |                            |
|--------------|----------------------------|
| Rick Ellis   | Department of Public Works |
| Karl Fenrick | Department of Public Works |

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

Approval of Minutes Dated August 26, 2025, and September 8, 2025: Supervisor Pennycook moved approval of the minutes from August 26, 2025, and September 8, 2025, as presented, seconded by Supervisor Homan. ADOPTED.

Citizen Participation, Communications and Announcements: Mr. Jorgenson reminded the Committee that Mr. Elmer and himself will be attending the WCHA Fall Commissioner's Training in Platteville on October 6-7, 2025.

Mr. Jorgenson noted that October 18, 2025, is designated as "Move Over, Slow Down" day in Wisconsin. The Department plans to take a new photo to share online and has partnered with Lamar Advertising to run a billboard campaign to raise awareness.

Mr. Jorgenson added that the Thresheree was successful in obtaining the historic Lathers Road Bridge, which will be relocated and installed on the Thresheree grounds.

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

Discussion and Possible Action – Issue Paper – Engine Breaking Policy: Mr. Jorgenson explained that the department has received requests to install signage addressing engine breaking on county highways to help with the excessive noise. The proposed policy would allow another government agency to request the standard “ENGINE BRAKE MUFFLERS REQUIRED” (R10-64) signs be installed at their expense on county highways if they are able to enforce it. Supervisor Sutter moved the Issue Paper, seconded by Supervisor Pennycook. ADOPTED.

Discussion – Project Update: Mr. Elmer gave an update on 2025 projects for the state, county, and towns, highlighting projects that have been completed since the last update in June. Recently completed state projects include crackfilling on STH 59, concrete repairs on STH 26 and I-90 at Turtle Creek, culvert repairs on I-43 and STH 67, bridge deck sealing, one-pass mowing, and the second round of interstate median sweeping.

Recently completed county projects include sealcoating on CTH A and CTH H, bridge deck sealing, spring mowing, and the CTH B construction project. The CTH T construction project is ongoing and approximately 75% complete.

Completed town work includes crackfilling in four towns, grader and paver patching in six towns, paving in 12 towns, and all town sealcoating projects. Twelve culverts have been ordered and are being delivered to the sites for installation. The priority is addressing closed short-span structures first. So far, two culverts have been replaced on Van Allen Rd in La Prairie and replacements are scheduled for Johnstown, Lima, and Bradford next.

Discussion – Staff Update: Mr. Elmer shared that there are currently four vacancies, three highway worker positions and a crew leader position that was formerly occupied by Karl Fenrick, who was recently promoted to State Superintendent. Mr. Elmer introduced Mr. Fenrick to the Committee. Mr. Fenrick has had several roles with the Department since 2012 and has experience with town, county, and state plow routes, bridge crew, and construction.

Supervisor Sutter left the meeting at 8:28 a.m.

The vacant crew leader position will be posted internally tomorrow (9/24/2025) and applications need to be reviewed from the recruitment that just closed on Friday. One candidate from the last recruitment starts on October 13.

## **REVIEW OF PAYMENTS**

August 2025 Payments: Mr. Jorgenson answered questions from the Committee and shared a breakdown of the Department’s monthly payment trends from 2019-2025.

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Next Meeting Date and Time:

Parks Meeting: Tuesday, October 14, 2025, at 8:00 a.m. at the Department of Public Works

Highway Meeting: Tuesday, October 28, 2025, at 8:00 a.m. at the Department of Public Works.

Combined Parks/Highway Meeting: Tuesday, November 11, 2025, at 8:00 a.m. at the Department of Public Works.

Combined Parks/Highway Meeting: Tuesday, December 9, 2025, at 8:00 a.m. at the Department of Public Works.

Adjournment: Supervisor Homan moved adjournment at 8:48 a.m., seconded by Supervisor Pennycook. ADOPTED.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Amanda McElroy, Administrative Professional III