



# ROCK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

## *Highways & Parks*

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Public Works Committee Meeting – Highway

February 24, 2026 – 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

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

|                        |              |                            |
|------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|
| <u>Others Present:</u> | Karl Fenrick | Department of Public Works |
|------------------------|--------------|----------------------------|

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

Approval of Minutes Dated January 27, 2026: Supervisor Homan moved approval of the minutes from January 27, 2026, as presented, seconded by Supervisor Pennycook. ADOPTED.

Citizen Participation, Communications and Announcements: Mr. Traynor shared there is a candlelight hike at Rock River Heritage Park on Saturday, February 28, 2026, weather permitting. The candlelight hike at Carver-Roehl was cancelled due to seasonal conditions.

Mr. Jorgenson noted that the Department is tracking a snow event this afternoon. He added that he plans to attend the WCHA Legislative Day on March 17, 2026, in Madison.

## REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF RESOLUTIONS

Sustainable Transportation Funding: Mr. Jorgenson explained that the transportation industry is urging the state government to create a sustainable and consistent transportation

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funding system. Local governments struggle to maintain their own transportation systems without reliable state aid. Supervisor Woodman moved the Resolution, seconded by Supervisor Sutter. ADOPTED.

Authorizing the Use of Sales Tax to Create a Parks Capital Improvements Fund: Mr. Traynor explained that the resolution requests five hundred thousand dollars in sales tax revenue be placed into a Parks Capital Improvement Fund annually. This would create a sustainable funding source and allow the department to plan and save for large projects, such as a park shelter, while also making smaller improvements to the parks.

The Committee discussed their concerns regarding the high dollar amount requested, the current financial situation, rising costs, and obtaining support from the full County Board. Supervisor Woodman moved to postpone this decision until the next Public Works Committee Meeting, scheduled on March 10, 2026, to review the numbers, seconded by Supervisor Pennycook. ADOPTED.

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

Discussion – Hwy 2025 Year in Review: Mr. Jorgenson and Mr. Elmer shared a PowerPoint presentation highlighting the achievements, projects, and events of the Public Works Department from the previous year.

### **Staffing and Personnel**

- 4 retirements, 5 resignations, 15 new hires, 0 current vacancies (fully staffed)
- 9 new staff completed CDL training
- Full staff meetings on various topics

### **Construction and Maintenance Projects**

- 61,500 tons of asphalt – paving projects
- 350,000 square yards sealed – sealcoat projects
- 30 miles crackfilled – road maintenance
- 75 miles shouldered – road edge improvements

### **Federal-Aid and State Aid Projects**

- CTH N Construction – completed from STH 59 - N Milton Rd
- CTH N Bridge – design ongoing, construction scheduled for 2027
- CTH D/Q HSIP Design – intersection improvement project scheduled for 2027
- Town Bridge Projects – Caledonia Rd Bridge is complete, design is ongoing for Lathers Rd, O’Riley Rd, and Cleophas Rd Bridges, design is started for Footville Rd, Milton-Shopiere Rd, and Stebbensville Rd Bridges

### **Training**

- Seasonal Training – spring and fall safety training for all staff
- Specialized Training – chainsaw, heavy equipment, and winter operator training
- Towns Trainings – WISLR and LRIP, accounting/billing, bridge maintenance, WTA Meetings
- WCHA – Winter and Summer Road School, Spring and Fall Commissioner Training

### **Equipment and Shop Projects**

- Equipment Acquisition – new vehicles and machinery added to the fleet
- Facility Improvements – stock room refresh and security camera installation
- Shop Upgrades – 40-ton press, floor jacks, scale for calibrating sanders, mower/UTV lift

### **Permits and Ordinances**

- 240 permit applications received
- 74 driveway permits
- 20 utility permits
- 52 broadband permits
- 77 oversize overweight permits
- 17 work in the right-of-way permits

### **WCHA**

- Winter Highway Conference (Wisconsin Dells) – January 13-15
- Spring Commissioner Training (Elkhart Lake) – April 8-9
- Summer Highway Conference (Wisconsin Dells) – June 2-4
- Fall Commissioner Training (LaCrosse) – October 6-7
- Safety & Training Committee Meetings – Mr. Jorgenson attended 7 meetings, is stepping down from this Committee, joining the Work Zone Safety & Training Committee, and he will serve as an alternate on the Bridge Committee

### **Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO)**

- JAMPO (Janesville Area MPO) – 6 technical advisory meetings
- SLATS (Stateline Area Transportation Study) – 4 technical advisory meetings

### **Community Engagement**

- December: Janesville Jolly Jingle – awarded “Best Use of Lights” for the department’s Grinch themed entry in the lighted parade

## **REVIEW OF PAYMENTS**

January 2026 Payments: Mr. Jorgenson answered questions from the Committee.

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Next Meeting Date and Time:

Parks Meeting: Tuesday, March 10, 2026, at 8:00 a.m. at the Department of Public Works.

Highway Meeting: Tuesday, March 24, 2026, at 8:00 a.m. at the Department of Public Works.

Adjournment: Supervisor Pennycook moved adjournment at 9:13 a.m., seconded by Supervisor Homan. ADOPTED.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Amanda McElroy, Administrative Professional III