

HIGHWAY COMMITTEE MINUTES

June 16th, 2026

The Manitowoc County Highway Committee convened into an open session at The Manitowoc County Highway Department, Conference Room, 3500 STH 310, Manitowoc, Wisconsin at 4:00 P.M. on this 16th day of June, 2026.

Supervisor Behnke, called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

Roll Call: Supervisors Kevin Behnke, Andrew Schwerma, Susie Maresh, Scott Schiesl, Dylan Hammel.

Excused: None

Also Present: Commissioner Greg Grotegut, County Executive Tyler Martell, County Board Chair Matthew Phipps, Mark Van Steenburgh and Owen Van Steenburgh, Jim Theyerl, Brian Reif, Terri Baerie, and Aaron Lillibridge.

Approval of Minutes: Supervisor Schwerma, made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 19th, 2026 meeting pending changes, seconded by Supervisor Maresh. Motion carried.

Regular Business:

(Public Comment):

Jim Theyerl - stated that the he wants his driveway reinstalled. Jim also stated that there is a bump in the road south of his property.

Terri Baerie - addressed the committee regarding a property she recently purchased on CTH LS and Silver Creek Road. She stated that she was unaware that driveway access was restricted to a specific location on the property. She requested consideration for allowing the driveway to face LS instead.

Brian Reif - appeared before the committee on behalf of the Northern Shores UTV Club. He requested that the county consider proposing the use of small sections of county roads to connect landlocked routes to allow access between town roads Mr. Reif requested that the matter be placed on the next meeting agenda for discussion.

Airport Proposal

Grotegut reported that, Corp Counsel Peter Conrad, Finance Director JJ Gutman, County Executive Tyler Martell and Commissioner Grotegut met to discuss the Fixed Base Operator (FBO) request. The recommendation to the committee was to deny this request because the county did not put this out as a request for proposal and there are many other unknowns with the proposed changes this would affect. Following discussion, a motion was made by Supervisor Maresh to deny the Fixed Based Operator request and have Grotegut consult Corporation Council regarding all aspects of the request, including equipment usage, liability, and other related issues seconded by Supervisor Phipps. Motion carried. This is to be on the July agenda for further discussion.

Controlled Access Driveway Request

Grotegut presented maps of the property, showing that the lot was divided into two parcels in 2025. He explained that there are currently 23 access points within this one-mile section of roadway. Grotegut also referenced Chapter 15, Code (11)(a)3 and Code (12)(c)1. He reported that he had consulted with the Town of Manitowoc and was informed that driveway access would be permitted from Silver Creek Road. Based on this information, Grotegut recommended denying the request for driveway access from CTH LS. Supervisor Schwerma made a motion to deny the driveway access request from CTH LS, which was seconded by Supervisor Hammel. The motion carried.

CTH V Non-Conforming Buildings Update

Grotegut shared an update on the non – conforming building matter on CTH V. Upon further review of the properties, they were not in county right of way and park and planning will be contacting the residents to obtain permits.

Highway Accounting Update

Grotegut addressed concerns regarding the highway's current accounting and tracking systems, including the continued use of the JDE system. He stated that the existing processes and software are outdated and may be limiting the highway's ability to implement more modern and efficient systems. Grotegut emphasized the importance of evaluating and updating these systems before the retirement of current administrative staff in order to improve continuity, efficiency. County Executive Tyler Martel said he will work with other departments to start this discussion.

I-43 Rest Area Update

Grotegut presented information regarding the new I-43 rest area site, which staff recently visited. He reported that he had met with representatives from the Department of Transportation (DOT) to discuss winter maintenance and snowplowing responsibilities for the new facility. Grotegut stated that maintaining the new rest area would require assigning an additional employee to interstate winter operations. He noted that further discussion is needed regarding the continuation of snowplowing services for towns and villages due to staffing shortages. Grotegut also expressed concern that the staffing shortage places additional strain on management personnel and stated that he would prefer to have adequate staffing levels to meet operational demands. The committee requested that Grotegut provide current route maps showing existing staffing assignments and bring the information back for discussion at the July meeting so the committee can make a decision on continued services.

Manitowoc Shop Roof Update

Grotegut updated the committee on the status of the roof project. He reported that the project is approximately 98% complete, with only a few remaining items to be finished. Outstanding work includes the installation of several vents, the addition of lightning rods required for code compliance, and completion of the awnings. The final project cost will depend on the expense of these remaining items and any project closeout costs.

2026-2027 Salt Prices Update

Grotegut shared a map showing current salt prices and discussed recent cost trends. He noted that salt prices have increased significantly compared to the previous year, resulting in higher anticipated winter maintenance expenses. The committee reviewed the pricing information and discussed the potential impact of rising salt costs.

County and State Budget Review

Grotegut presented the committee with county and state budget information that was sent out with the agenda for review.

Overtime Report

The committee reviewed the overtime reports. Grotegut shared he had no issues regarding the overtime reports.

Vouchers

Motion was made by Supervisor Maresh to approve the vouchers and seconded by Supervisor Schiesl. Motion carried.

Next Meeting Date

July 14th, 2026 (4:30 P.M.)

Meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Submitted by: Gregory M. Grotegut
Highway Commissioner