

HIGHWAY COMMITTEE MINUTES

July 14th, 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 4:30 P.M. on this 14th day of July, 2026.

Supervisor Hammel, called the meeting to order at 4:30 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 Online, County Board Chair Matthew Phipps, Supervisor Chris Dallas, Supervisor Brad Busse, Supervisor Dan Heilman, Darrell Meier, Mark Krcma, Mike Jaeger, Bill Rexes, Brian Reif, Dean Meyer, Jeff Adaen, Steve Spiering, Greg Klei, Ara Jordan, Bill Pauwels, Margaret Pauwels, Rich Rothmond, Jeffery Check, and Terri and Liz Barrie

Approval of Minutes: Supervisor Schwerma, made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 16th, 2026 meeting pending changes from Commissioner Grotegut, seconded by Supervisor Maresh. Motion carried.

Regular Business:

(Public Comment):

Darrell Meier - Provided a petition with employee signatures in regards to wearing shorts during work.

Terri Barrie - Addressed the committee asking for an appeal regarding a property she recently purchased on CTH LS and Silver Creek Road. She stated that she was concerned about her current view when pulling out of driveway therefore requesting a better place for the driveway. She requested reconsideration for allowing the driveway to come off of CTH LS.

Bill Pauwels – Stated his observations from UTV access on county roads in Marinette County where they have a cabin.

Margaret Pauwels - Stated adding's to husbands comment about observations about UTV's. Stating they go too fast and they are too loud and there is a major safety concern with kids using them.

Rich Rothmond – Stated his knowledge on UTV's as an owner at TA motorsports and spoke about noise decibels. He agrees there should be requirements if county roads get passed like must have turn signals and stock exhaust.

Steve Spiering - Stated he would like UTV's on county roads passed as he lives 1/8 mile from a legal town road. Also stated he believes the public believes there will be more issues than actually assumed.

Craig Vine - Stated that he sees UTV's going speed limit because there is a posted limit not cause that's only how fast they go. He agrees there should be turn signals mandatory on the UTV's if the county roads get passed. He also stated about insurance on UTV's stating most have some kind of insurance on them. He stated hopes it gets passed, as he goes to Arizona in winter and he says it works there with minimal issues.

Bill Rexes: Stated he is the head of the Northern Shore's UTV Club. He stated he lives on Berringer Road and he can't get anywhere with his UTV unless it is on a county road because he is land locked. He stated he has a small list of segments of county roads he would like passed for access and is not asking for whole county to be opened. He stated accidents happen on UTV but he stated news has blown it up. He added to his comment by saying how is a tractor or a bicycle or Amish wagon any safer?

Election of Second Vice Chair

A motion was made by Supervisor Schwerma to nominate Supervisor Schiesl as second vice chair. Motion carried.

Controlled Access Driveway-CTH LS-Appeal Request

Grotegut stated that he had made an error in the previous meeting minutes regarding the two divided lots. He referenced Chapter 15 of the County Code and explained that, based on the number of driveways in the mile, the request should still be denied. Discussion followed among the committee members. Supervisor Hammel stated that he had spoken with a representative from the sheriff's department, who agreed that access from Silver Creek Road would be the safer option. Following further discussion, Supervisor Schiesl made a motion to approve the request for driveway access onto CTH LS within the controlled-access corridor. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Schwerma. A vote was taken. The vote resulted in a tie, with Supervisors Schiesl, Schwerma, and Phipps voting in favor of the motion, and Supervisors Behnke, Maresh, and Hammel voting against it. As the motion failed to receive a majority vote, the request was denied.

Airport Proposal-Airport Future

Grotegut spoke with corp counsel in regards to putting the FBO out for proposal. There were many concerns with private FBO's using county equipment and facilities. Grotegut suggestion to the committee would be to not open up for proposal at this time. Grotegut also spoke about the airport master plan and how the plan needs to be in place to continue obtaining federal funding. The county is in early stages of this plan and Mead and Hunt is the consultant working on the plan. A motion was made by Supervisor Schwerma to table the FBO proposal motion. Motion was seconded by Supervisor Schiesl. Motion carried.

Resolution for a Functional Classification Update

Grotegut shared a map and the resolution with the committee showing the Village of Reedsville: Park Street and Manitowoc Streets are proposed to change functional class. A motion was made by Supervisor Maresh to approve the functional classification. Motion was seconded by Supervisor Schiesl. Motion carried.

Personnel Update

Grotegut reported that the highway department is currently down four employees, including three maintenance workers and one mechanic. The department continues to actively recruit and interview candidates, although most applicants do not possess a commercial driver's license (CDL). One maintenance position has been filled; additional interviews are ongoing.

Continued Winter Services

Grotegut provided the updated on-call schedule. He reported that the department currently has three vacant maintenance worker positions and one vacant mechanic position. He also noted that two employees may be out for major surgeries, which could further impact staffing levels and limit the department's ability to approve vacation requests. Supervisor Schwerma asked how much revenue the department receives annually from the village snow removal contracts. Grotegut stated that, while the arrangement has been beneficial for the participating towns and villages, the department generated approximately \$50,000 in total revenue from all three contracts in 2025. He further explained that the addition of lane miles on STH 10 and the expanded plowing responsibilities at the new rest areas for the 2026–2027 winter season have increased the department's workload and resource demands. Supervisor Behnke made a motion directing Commissioner Grotegut to send letters to the two villages and one town notifying them that the highway department will discontinue providing winter snow removal services. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Phipps. Supervisor Hammel was opposed. Motion carried.

ATV UTV on County Roads Discussion

Grotegut stated that ATV's and UTV's on county roads has been discussed for at least seven years and has consistently been referred back to Traffic and Safety for review. Traffic and Safety has historically have not been in favor of the ATV's and UTV's on roads due to concerns, including the lack of turn signals, tires not designed for pavement use, speed, applicable alcohol laws, noise and questions regarding enforcement responsibilities. Supervisor Hammel stated that there are many factors to consider and that he would like additional time to research the matter before making a final decision. Supervisor Hammel made a motion to table the matter for further review. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Schwerma. Motion carried.

Employee Policy for Shorts Discussion

Grotegut discussed the department's current internal policy, which does not allow employees to wear shorts while performing their job duties. He stated that permitting shorts could increase the potential for workers' compensation claims due to greater exposure to injuries. He further explained that certain job duties require the use of personal protective equipment (PPE), and shorts are not considered appropriate attire when those PPE requirements apply. Grotegut stated

that he would discuss the matter further with supervisors and foremen before making a final decision.

GTA Review

Grotegut shared the General Transportation Aids (GTA) funding distribution and explained how transportation funding is allocated. He stated that funding is based on a six-year average of eligible expenditures. He explained that if the county invests more into transportation projects, it will receive more funding in return, whereas lower investment may result in reduced future funding.

Meeme Landfill Update

Grotegut informed the committee that the county owns the Meeme landfill property and those recent changes have resulted in additional inspection requirements, which are being managed by the highway department. He noted that other inspections and testing are funded by the Town of Meeme and the Town of Centerville. Grotegut stated that he wanted to make the new supervisors aware of the county's ownership and the department's responsibilities related to the property.

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 Schwerma. Motion carried.

Next Meeting Date

August 11th, 2026 (4:30 P.M.)

Meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Submitted by: Gregory M. Grotegut
Highway Commissioner