

## HIGHWAY COMMITTEE MINUTES

August 11<sup>th</sup>, 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 11<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2026.

Supervisor Hammel, called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m.

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

**Excused:** Supervisor Scott Schiesl.

**Also Present:** Commissioner Greg Grotegut, County Executive Tyler Martell, County Board Chair Matthew Phipps, Supervisor Brad Busse, Supervisor Chris Dallas, Corporation Counsel Peter Conrad, Kathy Koch, Randy Reimer, Jim Koch, Randy Harden, Ann Harden, Jason Wiesner, Bill Bratz Jr, Scott Yankee, Gregg Ruether, Bill Rexses, Stacy Wiebensohn, Brad Wiebensohn, Jeff Rothmand, Jeffrey Check, Ken Walsh, Mike Yelmene, Jim Braun, Cindy Braun, Mike Jaeger, Shane Powalisz, Steve Spiering, Mike Balaban, Art Jordan, Tammy Schroeder, Travis Schroeder, Shaun Bender, Hugh Springstroh, Dave Remiker, Mark Krcma, Tammy Wellner.

**Approval of Minutes:** Supervisor Schwerma, made a motion to approve the minutes from the July 14th, 2026, seconded by Supervisor Maresh. Motion carried.

### **Regular Business:**

#### **(Public Comment):**

The following individuals spoke in favor of allowing UTV/ATV usage on county roads: Jim Braun, Bill Rexses, Randy Harden, Brad Wiebensohn, Dave Remiker, Tammy Wellner, Steve Spiering, and Evan Drandale.

#### **ATV/UTV on County Roads Discussion**

Supervisor Hammel stated that there was significant support in the room for moving forward with a request to allow ATV's/ UTVs on county roads. He reported that he had spoken with the Sheriff regarding a potential ordinance, including provisions for nighttime operation. Supervisor Schwerma stated that he had spoken with members of the community to gauge support for the proposal. He raised concerns regarding golf carts and noted that, in some situations, children may be at greater risk of injury in a golf cart than in a UTV. Supervisor Behnke reported that he had reviewed ordinances from surrounding counties and found that a 35-mph speed limit was consistent with many of them. He noted that some county roads may not be appropriate for ATV's/UTV's due to traffic volume, particularly roads with higher traffic counts. Corporation Counsel Peter Conrad expressed opposition to the proposal, citing significant safety concerns. Supervisor Schwerma made a motion to direct Corporation Counsel to draft an ordinance allowing UTVs/ATVs on county roads, incorporating recommendations from Highway Committee members and the Sheriff. The proposed ordinance will be brought back to the committee for further consideration and approval. Supervisor Phipps seconded the motion. Supervisors Hammel, Schwerma, Phipps, and Maresh voted in favor; Supervisor Behnke voted opposed. The motion carried.

#### **CTH A No Parking Request**

Commissioner Grotegut provided the committee with a map illustrating the village's current request for a no-parking zone on CTH A between CTH C and Church Street. He also presented his findings regarding the recent crash history within the requested section. Discussion continued. Supervisor Hammel suggested making the restriction 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., primarily due to the semis traveling through the area during the daytime. He also stated that he had discussed the matter with the village president and local businesses wondering how they felt about the matter. Supervisor Behnke made a motion to proceed with the request for the no parking zone as requested by the village and require the village to fund the

associated cost of signage and installation. The motion was seconded by Supervisor Maresh. Supervisors Behnke, Maresh and Phipps voted in favor; Supervisor Hammel and Schwerma voted opposed. Motion carried.

#### **Shop Roof Update- Lighting Protection**

Commissioner Grotegut provided an update on the lightning protection system and the work needed to bring the system back up to standards following the installation of the new roof. He presented pricing and options from two vendors. Grotegut also provided the committee with estimates for awnings on the highway shop. Supervisor Hammel questioned what the implications would be if the system were restored to its previous standard rather than upgraded to current standards. Discussion followed. Supervisor Phipps made a motion to approve Work Option 1 for lighting protection at a cost of \$15,300. The motion failed to receive a majority vote and was denied. Discussion continued regarding insurance requirements. Corporation Counsel will review the requirements, and Commissioner Grotegut will report back to the committee with additional information. Supervisor Hammel made a motion to approve the estimate for five new awnings for the highway shop, to be funded within the existing roofing budget. Supervisor Schwerma seconded the motion. Motion carried.

#### **Personnel Update**

Commissioner Grotegut provided an update on the recent highway maintenance hires. He noted that four maintenance positions remained unfilled, including one mechanic position. Commissioner Grotegut also showed the current CDL trainees.

#### **Accounting System Update**

Commissioner Grotegut provided an update on his research regarding the accounting system upgrade. He noted that implementation is expected to take two years or more and that additional staff may be needed to assist with onboarding. If the county plans to implement a new system, the potential staffing needs and associated costs should be considered as part of the 2028 budget process.

#### **Proposed 27 Road Project Budget**

Commissioner Grotegut presented a spreadsheet outlining the road projects and costs anticipated for the 2027 budget.

#### **Overtime Report**

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

#### **Vouchers**

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

#### **Next Meeting Date**

September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2026 (4:30 P.M)

#### **Adjournment**

Supervisor Maresh made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Supervisor Schwerma. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Submitted by: Gregory M. Grotegut

Highway Commissioner