

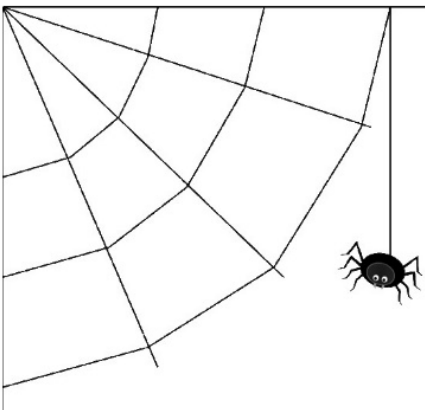
210 Commercial Street - PO Box 189 – Brooklyn, WI 53521

October 2023 Village News

Clerk's Office - 455-4201
Fax - 455-1385
PO Box 189, 210 Commercial St
Email: clerk@brooklynwi.gov

Police Department – 608-255-2345
102 N. Rutland Avenue
Email: grumke.merrick@danesherriff.com

Public Works Dept. - 455-1842
Fax - 455-1501
102 Windy Lane
Email: publicworks@brooklynwi.gov



TRICK-OR-TREATING HOURS

Tuesday, October 31st
4:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Have a Safe and Happy Halloween!

PG 13

BROOKLYN FREE MOVIE

SUN., OCT. 15 AT 1 PM
COMMUNITY BUILDING
102 N. RUTLAND AVE.

Bring your own chairs and blankets.

**LOCKUP YOUR CHILDREN!
YES, SALEM. WERE BACK!**

[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-NC-ND](#).

Rated R

BROOKLYN FREE MOVIE

SAT., OCT. 28TH AT 8 PM
COMMUNITY BUILDING
102 N. RUTLAND

Bring your own chairs and blankets.

**"YOU BETTER GET YOURSELF A GARLIC
T-SHIRT, BUDDY, OR IT'S YOUR FUNERAL."**

CHILI FEED



**Brooklyn Community
United Methodist Church
Thursday, October 19th
4:30 PM – 7:30 PM
Cost: \$6.00**

Chili, all beef hot dogs (for those who don't want chili), assorted cheese/breads/crackers, homemade desserts, milk, and coffee.

100% of receipts given to the "Needs" fund at the Brooklyn Elementary School.
Please join us.

COMMUNITY POTLUCK

Thursday, October 26

At Noon

Brooklyn Methodist Church

Everyone - all ages are welcome.

Bring a dish to pass.

Table service and beverages are provided.



Please join the Village of Brooklyn in partnering with Pellitteri Waste Systems for this year's annual ThanksGIVING Back virtual food drive! Online donations will go directly to Second Harvest Foodbank. Second Harvest Foodbank works together with hundreds of local hunger-relief charities to provide the peace of mind people have when they know they have enough food. Every \$10 raised provides 25 meals! Watch our Facebook and website for the link to donate.



Brush Pickup 2nd Tuesday of each month

Please place brush in the terrace, parallel to the curb, and in separate piles. Be sure to stay away from any electrical/telephone equipment. All cut ends need to be placed in the same direction.



Leaf Collection

Public Works will be starting to collect leaves the week of October 9th.

Place your leaf piles into the street.

Do not mix in twigs, branches, or other debris.



Get Fit Class Schedule

**Monday - 6:00pm
PIYO**

**Wednesday night - 6:00pm
Yoga Slow Flow**



Which Electronics Can I Recycle Under E-Cycle Wisconsin?



Wisconsin households and K-12 schools may recycle electronics through E-Cycle Wisconsin. The following electronics are accepted under E-Cycle Wisconsin. Many collection sites also accept other items. To find a collection site or mail-back program, visit dnr.wi.gov and search "ecycle."



Computers: desktops, laptops, netbooks, notebooks



Fax machines and desktop printers, including 3-D printers and printers combined with fax machines, scanners and copiers



TVs and monitors



Cellphones, tablets and e-readers



Battery-powered phone accessories



Computer accessories, including keyboards, mice, hard drives, scanners, speakers, flash drives and other devices



DVD players, VCRs, DVRs and other video players



Video game consoles, hand-held video games and battery-powered accessories



dnr.wi.gov, search "ecycle"

E-CYCLE WISCONSIN

VILLAGE OF BROOKLYN ORDINANCE CHAPTER 32

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND

SECTIONS 32-87 AND 32-88 OF CHAPTER 32 OF THE CODE OF THE VILLAGE OF BROOKLYN

REGARDING WINTER PARKING

THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF BROOKLYN DO ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:

Section 32-87: Chapter 32, Traffic and Vehicles; Section 32-87 Winter Parking, and Section 32-88 Snow emergency parking regulations of the Village of Brooklyn Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 32-87. - Winter parking.

- (a) Except as provided in subsections (b) and (c) of this section, no on-street parking will be allowed on any street in the village when there is an ice event or over one inch of snow and 24 hours after the ice event or snowfall has finished or until snow or ice is plowed to the curb.
- (b) No on-street parking will be allowed on Hotel Street between Commercial Street (Hwy. 92) and North Rutland Avenue (Hwy. MM) and on W. Main Street between Commercial Street and First Street and on Railroad Street between W. Main Street and Bowman Street between the hours of 3:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m. when there is an ice event or over one inch of snow and 24 hours after the ice event or snowfall has finished or until snow or ice is plowed to the curb.
- (c) Section 32-82 is adopted by reference.
- (d) Any vehicle parked in violation of subsection (a) or (b) of this section will be ticketed \$30.00 and/or towed.

(Ord. of 7-13-2015(1), § 32.20(1); Ord. of 10-14-2019(1); Ord. of 1-11-2021(1); Ord. of 2-14-2022(1))

Sec. 32-88. - Snow emergency parking regulations.

- (a) *Definition.* The village board, village president or public works director declares a snow emergency exists when the director of public works has determined the snow and/or ice accumulation on the village streets is in an amount sufficient to hinder the safe movement of traffic or to impede the ability of emergency vehicles and public transportation vehicles to travel safely and expeditiously over such streets or alleys.
- (b) Such declaration requires the director of public works or clerk's office to notify four designated radio stations, two local television stations and the Village website and Facebook by no later than 10:00 p.m. of the day of the village's declared snow emergency.
- (c) No person shall park any motor vehicle or leave any motor vehicle parked upon any street or alley within the village, during any period of time in which snow or ice has accumulated and where snow emergency conditions exist, until snow has been plowed or removed from such street or alley.
- (d) Enforcement of this section shall not require any public posting in the village.
- (e) Any vehicle parked in violation of subsection (c) of this section will be ticketed \$30.00 and/or towed. In the event of a violation the village shall have the authority to have vehicles towed to the facility of the person providing the towing service or a designated area. The cost of such towing shall be added to the forfeiture.

(Ord. of 7-13-2015(1), § 32.20(2); Ord. of 2-14-2022(1))

Adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Brooklyn, Wisconsin, this

12th day of June 2023.

DRUG TAKE BACK DAY SUNDAY

OCTOBER 22nd
8 AM TO NOON

Brooklyn Fire/EMS Station
401 W Main St, Brooklyn

SAFELY DISPOSE OF UNUSED OR
EXPIRED MEDICINES!

FREE!

Pills, liquids, gels and
creams in original containers.

Please, no sharps!





2023 RAFFLE

\$5/TICKET

Contact any Chamber member or
ask for Linda at Village Hall

**DRAWING WILL BE HELD DECEMBER 2 AT NOON
@ SANTA DAYS (Methodist Church)**

\$1000 – 1st PRIZE

- Oregon Tradesmen hockey 2024-2025 season tickets** (\$400 value donated by Oregon Tradesmen)
- Soul Mat and orientation lesson** (\$250 value donated by Body Conscious LLC)
- \$200 Overture Center gift certificate** (donated by Kathleen Conklin and Body Conscious LLC)
- \$100 Cash prize** (donated by Stoughton Health)
- Ukelele** (\$100 value donated by Academy of Sound)
- Brooklyn Barn basket** (\$100 value donated by Brooklyn Barn)
- Who Breathes, a book by Kathleen Conklin** (\$90 value donated by Body Conscious LLC)
- Socket wrench set and mugs** (\$80 value donated by Carter & Gruenewald)
- Breathe, Stretch, Move DVD** (\$35 value donated by Body Conscious LLC)

Only 600 tickets will be sold Need not be present to win License #R0025579A-75757
Brooklyn Area Chamber of Commerce, PO Box 33, Brooklyn, WI 53521

October 2023 News from Your Senior Center

By Rachel Brickner

Anyone who watches television can't help but be aware that we have entered the annual autumn Open Enrollment Period for people on Medicare.

After being exposed to the endless bombardment of marketing, some people ignore the ads, some people fall for them, and others wonder if there is something they should be doing.

The answer is yes, there is something you should be doing, but that answer is NOT calling the number on your screen!

The period of time between mid-October and December 7 is Medicare's Open Enrollment period. It gives people an opportunity to make changes in their medical and drug coverage, and it can be a way for seniors to save money.

Most seniors have insurance in addition to Medicare benefits. That insurance helps cover the cost of medications and other expenses that Medicare does not fully cover. The Open Enrollment period each year offers seniors a chance to make changes in those providers.

Instead of calling the number on your screen at the end of an ad, or ignoring the Open Enrollment period altogether, it is a good idea to evaluate your insurance coverage each year. Drug plans, also known as Medicare Part D plans, change annually, especially with regard to premiums and covered medications. It may be cheaper to change to a new plan for the upcoming

year. However, unless a senior has help evaluating the options, it can be very difficult to figure out which plan might be the least expensive.

This is where the Senior Center staff can provide guidance. The case managers are trained to evaluate plans and help seniors determine the cost of various options. **The service is free.** If you are interested in meeting with a case manager to evaluate your Part D options, please call the Center at 835-5801 and ask to speak to Carol or Noriko. We do request that you make an appointment for this popular service, rather than stopping in and asking for help without having an appointment scheduled. We also ask that you call early during the Open Enrollment period to get your appointment on the calendar, to make sure your request can be accommodated.

By simply evaluating which drug insurance plan will be cheapest for a senior, the senior can then look at the cost savings associated with switching to a different plan. Sometimes a simple change can lead to savings of hundreds or even thousands of dollars over a year. Any decision about whether to change is, of course, completely up to the senior involved.

Brooklyn Village Board Meeting Minutes September 11, 2023

The September 11, 2023, Village Board meeting of the Village of Brooklyn was called to order at 6:30 p.m. at the Village Hall by President Mark Bruner. Trustees present were Chris Groenier, Dan Olson, David Berland, Mike Brusberg and Janeen Podgorski. Trustee Mike Gehrman was absent. Also present were Jason Marshall, Jon Solan from Strand, Deputy Merrick Grumke and Clerk-Treasurer Linda Kuhlman. Pledge of Allegiance. No public comments.

President's report –Bruner thanked Brusberg for taking the lead at the last board meeting. He also asked everyone to remember 22 years ago today, the day that changed America.

110 Hotel Street – Bruner asked if we heard anything from Mr. Douglas. Kuhlman said we have not. Groenier said he needed proof and three written contracts. Brusberg asked if anyone talked to Mr. Douglas one on one. He's wondering if the best benefit is to have someone on the board have a one-on-one conversation with him and figure out what's his intent, how much longer will he operate as a business, if we can get a better gauge, and can we put some protections in place. Groenier asked if he is actually doing business out of the building. Brusberg went to his open house, and one thing he admitted to was putzing. That was one reason for having the business, he needed a place to do that. He said technically the inspector did not condemn the property. He said in order for it to be rectified, basically torn down and bring back up, it would be \$180,000. Bruner said it would be about \$160,000 to bring it up to code and to make it habitable. Right now it is uninhabitable based on code. Olson said if it was uninhabitable, he would have condemned it at that time. Groenier said if it is deemed uninhabitable and if it's licensed for a commercial occupancy permit, he cannot live there. Bruner and Brusberg said we have no proof. Groenier said if it's uninhabitable, we can pull his occupancy permit. It doesn't need to be condemned, and we can still pull his permit. Brusberg asked if the report said it was uninhabitable. Groenier said if he had the estimates, he would be here. Brusberg sees it as a long end game played out in the courts. Bruner said with no liability insurance on his property, if the building is structurally unsound, and if pieces fall off that building and he has no insurance, where does the liability come. It will come to us. Brusberg asked if it's possible to draw up a contract that the liability falls on him as the business owner and can we require an annual inspection. Groenier said Douglas thinks it's totally fine and won't do anything about it. Bruner said the bottom line, even if he signs paperwork that he accepts liability, what are his assets. If there's a lawsuit, he doesn't have the money to back it. Berland said if our largest concern is the liability and cost of that liability, what if in lieu of fixing the building, we require him to carry sufficient insurance coverage that we set for liability. It's much less than fixing the building. It removes what seems to be our largest concern. Bruner said his largest concern is public safety. Berland said if we're not going to take an active hand in asking him to fix it or mandating it, the next step is making sure there is liability to make sure it's covered. Bruner said the other option, would be to have it condemned and go through basically the same thing

as with Railroad Street. Berland there is something to be said about not being able to replace an historic building in our downtown. Bruner understands, but the fact the building is being acted on by the forces it is and is causing the building to shift and will eventually cause it to collapse, how are we going to salvage the historic building. Groenier said it's not an historic building. The tree is growing into the building, which is literally toppling it over. The building is trash. There's no saving it. You have to tear down and rebuild. Olson said he can't rebuild there. Brusberg struggles with the fact yes, he doesn't want to underscore public safety concerns. This is different than Railroad Street. If we're going to come after this, then we should go to the nextdoor neighbor that continues to sit with Tyvek and degrading and we've done nothing with that. Where do we draw the line. At some point there's a reputation we carry, are we pro business and against small business. Groenier there's a difference from a building exterior looking bad in the process of rebuilding versus a building that has an odor versus this place that's falling down. The exterior, they're building, it doesn't look great, that shouldn't be at the top of our concern. It would be the building that is a nuisance and a building falling down. Marshall suggested putting a fence up front and back so people can't get to that building, and it's a cheaper fix, and do something with the gas line and power line to eliminate the chance of explosion or electrocution. Bruner said he can't put a fence in the front because there's a setback. Brusberg said with the inspection side with the gas line and electric line, that's where he's going with the frequent inspection to make sure it's safe from the public side. Marshall said If the gas and power are neutralized, and the fence, don't have to worry about something happening. If the board is fine with having it on a business street, fine. Brusberg thinks we should get the gas line and electrical line figured out, and then talk with owner to see how much more he plans to operate his business, and based on that timeline, we should have an annual inspection done on the building to monitor further degradation. And ideally we'd partner with him to figure out how to limit the liability. Bruner asked if he's willing to be that person. Brusberg is willing only if Grumke goes with him. Podgorski is willing to help get him services and talk to him. She's willing to go. Bruner said they should work it out with Grumke and set up a time. Groenier feels like there was something said about him not having his occupancy permit, we should look into that. If he doesn't have one, he can't live there. Bruner said he can't live there. Marshall said he is living there. The board has to jump on board, and there's so much potential in Brooklyn. But we've got that and there's a big dead elm tree across the street and nobody seems to care. Groenier said we need to talk to the inspector, look within the village, see if he has an occupancy permit. If he doesn't have one, then he can't live there. We need to at least get him out, whether or not there's a business out of there or if it's just a hobby. If it's a commercial occupancy permit, and he's not running a business out of there, then it's not the right permit. We need to first look at if he can legally live there, which he can't because it's a commercial building. If he's living there, we have to put a stop to it. That's his opinion. We need to look into some logistics to get him out of there. Olson said it will take years and years in the courts. Groenier said he doesn't see a better option. Berland said if they can meet with him and address the public safety concerns and address the gas and electric, and he would like to see address general liability concerns as well. If we're not going to make him fix this building, he needs to get proof of coverage for the liability. That's fully reasonable and much more cost effective. Bruner said the one thing he's not willing to do is nothing. Olson said, his comment was he's 75 years old, and he could be dead in five years. Whether what we do as far as if we have it condemned, it's not like that is something that's going to happen tomorrow, it's not going to happen next year, or the year after. If it goes into the court system, he will fight it until the end and will cost the village a lot of money. Podgorski asked if we have a list of all the requirements as a business owner. It was hard for her to find that information. Those should be the minimum things. We're not anti-business, but given this situation, if the gentleman is not going to run the business as a responsible member of this village and not going to step up and get the things we require, then shutting the business down seems like a good step. He has to live somewhere, winter is coming. Even though we don't want him to live there, assuming that he is, if he chooses to live there on his own recognizance and something happens, that is his choice. She doesn't want to displace someone in winter, but come spring, you need to do something. Bruner asked if it can happen in the next two weeks. Brusberg said in the next month. If we're not able to get him in person, this is the last olive branch being extended. We're looking to partner and trying to take a different approach, and nothing else seems to work. We have to figure out a different process. He wants what's best for this village. Marshall said he keeps hearing money, but what happens if the building collapses. The gas line is his major concern. Brusberg said to that point can we ask Alliant to come in and inspect the gas and power lines. Berland, if unsafe, can we mandate them to shut it off. **Brusberg made a motion that we order an inspection of**

the gas and power lines immediately via Alliant Energy, and Brusberg and Podgorski meet with Paul Douglas to talk about other aspects of his property and commercial business. If the gas or electric is deemed unsafe by Alliant, it's immediately shut off. Groenier seconded. Motion carried.

Jon Solan from Strand spoke regarding the Business Park infrastructure. He walked through the process of the phases of the Business Park. He went through the design history and the changes. We will continue Prosperity Place and make an intersection with a new road to the east that ends in a cul du sac. It is a change from the original look. We're talking with CARPC on what is needed to continue to the south. He discussed the sewer hookups in phase 1. A new lift station is going in on phase 2, which will pump everything back to the N. Kerch Street lift station. The new station serves the entire area, including subsequent phases. Bruner asked if we heard about water supply. Solan said in the original Urban Service Area expansion, we had to give fire flows. They were questioning the flows at that time. We've updated the numbers. Per capita usage went down. The village didn't grow as projected previously. Prosperity Place will be looped back to South Kerch Street to meet the 10" lines there. We will have to get an easement at the south of South Kerch Street and hug the corners of the properties to get the line to South Kerch. Bruner asked if it's being fed by a 6" main. Solan said there are spots in the system and there's enough paths, but from a villagewide system there are future projects that would help overall. The capacity is locked by the size of the tower, and CARPC wants a new tower. Bruner asked how do you control the flow to make sure water doesn't get stagnant in one of the towers if we have two. Solan said that is a concern and would have to be monitored. From a daily usage, we don't want that yet, but from a fire protection standpoint CARPC is saying you need to look at that. It's something they need to discuss with CARPC when we get to phase 3. The wetland delineation was done to figure out where we can build. The area of high land is open and DNR likes to make an environmental corridor. We need to cut where the tree line is to get fill for the road and put some stormwater control there. Brusberg asked if the water will run away from the existing residence. Solan said there's some big culverts that go across the road to King Lake. The water should go to the King Lake culverts before going to his property. We have to maintain a 200-year event stormwater system. Bruner said there's a pipe that goes along to Harvey's Marsh. Solan said we have to maintain storm control on the site. We're planning to advertise and bid in the fall and start building in the spring and get done by next year. The O&A development is independent from this project, because they have sewer going out to Prosperity Place. Bruner asked if we can require a dry system sprinkler instead of a wet sprinkler. Solan said yes, it can be looked at. Discussion on bidding timeline and bidding requirements. Olson asked about the size of the lift station, was it downgraded, and how will that play out with the other phases. Solan said the pumps will be able to handle all of the business complex projected flows through phase 3. The pumps are not designed to handle residential flow in the area, because that isn't known or guaranteed. The size of the well is for full build-out. Solan said as part of this project, there is nothing to do with the South Kerch Street lift station, but it does need to be fixed before this project. Kuhlman thought that area was included in the project for the TID. Board thanked Solan.

Berland made a motion to approve the August 14 minutes as written. Olson seconded. Motion carried. **Berland made a motion to approve the August 28 minutes as written.** Groenier seconded. Motion carried. Bruner and Podgorski abstained.

Clerk's report – Financial reports were passed out. For the month of August, we had total deposits of \$333,690.66, and of that \$222,077.77 was from final tax payments. Total withdrawals were \$172,781.20, and the balance at the end of August was \$2,460,673.24. Board members were handed a new debt schedule. Three loans were paid this year. Total payments went down about \$63,000. Our debt level is \$3.7 million and we could potentially borrow \$3.5 million more. You don't want to use more than 60-65% of debt limit. Some will be used for the TID. Bruner said nothing additional is paid until 2028. **Summer Recreation** went to the children's museum as one of their trips and they made a \$20 donation, so we received a thank you letter from the museum. The **bank has moved out of Village Hall.** We will keep the inner doors locked for now. There is a safe in the way back of the vault. The **Senior Center budget** was discussed. Town of Oregon is holding a meeting with some of the municipalities on Thursday to discuss the budget. Kuhlman will go. Bruner asked if they have means of collecting from people outside of this area. Kuhlman said they do charge for some classes. Berland asked how realistic the budget numbers are.

Kuhlman said the Village of Oregon does the budget, as part of the Village budget. They pull out what needs to be split between the municipalities. Berland asks how they have \$32,000 for administrative costs from the Village Hall. Discussion on budget. Berland said most seems reasonable, but he's concerned with administrative costs and why they're allocating 2/3 of a village staff person to the budget. Brusberg asked if we can get 2023 expenditures and 2023 revenues and 2022 actuals for expenses and revenues. Berland is not opposed to contributing to the senior center, but he wants to know we're not subsidizing the Village of Oregon. Kuhlman said at the end of 2022, the Village of Oregon increased salaries, and that's part of why the increase because it wasn't included in 2023. Brusberg asked if the other municipalities on the contract have some kind of representation so they have a voice in terms of how the budget is structured. He thinks we need to keep an arm's length from the contract. Berland would like to see the progression of costs over time. He's okay with paying people. Brusberg would like to see the splits at the detailed level. Olson asked how they figure out the population. Bruner said the 1028 is Dane County. Berland said yes, we represent 5.7% of the population served by the senior center, but the village skews younger. Do we have that same representation that is actually using the services or are we representing only 3% of services used. At the census the average age was 39-40 with young kids. We are a young village. Brusberg said if you look at case management, we're at 1%, and the outreach on the last three years, the \$11,330 is a small slice. We're probably 1-1/2 to 2% of the demand that's taking place. Berland would say it makes more sense to pay by a running three-year average of demand rather than gross population. Olson when we pay what we pay, some years we're under and some years we're over. Berland added that if the running three-year average goes over, he doesn't mind paying more, but doesn't want to overpay for what our residents are using. Olson is okay with a slight increase but not \$25,000. Bruner could see going to \$20,000. \$5,000 is a 33% increase. Olson said that's very generous. Brusberg would say \$17,500, that's a 16% increase. Olson agrees with that. Berland thinks that's a reasonable increase. Kuhlman asked if one of the board members would be available for Wednesday, the 27th. She'll get more information before the next board meeting. Deputy Grumke procured some **yard signs** that say slow down. We have some in the office, and he has some in the squad. It was put on Facebook. We have a few **items left behind from Labor Day**. We'll hold them for a month before getting rid of them. Deputy Clerk Olson and Clerk Kuhlman would like to try something new with the **movies** and do two nights and days during a month and play movies for teens and adults instead of Disney films. For example, at the end of October, we would play a horror movie. They wanted the board to okay it. Board was okay with it.

Olson reviewed bills and didn't see anything wrong. Brusberg also. **Olson made a motion to approve bills as presented**. Brusberg seconded. Motion carried.

Resolution for terminating TID 1 - Berland said the adopted date needs to be adjusted, but he didn't see anything else. Kuhlman sends this to DOR with another form for the final audit within a year. In 2024 the auditors will do the final audit. **Berland made a motion to approve Resolution 2023-17 Terminating TID 1 with the edit of the adoption dates as presented to the board**. Podgorski seconded. Motion carried by roll call vote. Ayes – Brusberg, Podgorski, Bruner, Olson, Berland and Groenier. Noes – none.

Chief of police references in Ordinances – Kuhlman said at the last meeting the board discussed the chief of police references in the ordinances. She printed out all the references. Berland asked if we should refer these to the ordinance committee. Kuhlman stated the ordinance committee is Bruner, Gehrmann and Podgorski. An ordinance meeting was scheduled for October 2 at 6:00 p.m. **Berland made a motion to send the set of ordinances presented that have chief of police in them to the ordinance committee for consideration and rewrite**. Brusberg seconded. Motion carried. Bruner asked if there are any others that need to be looked at. Kuhlman mentioned the public nuisance ordinance should be looked at also.

Brusberg made a motion to authorize Public Works to post no parking signs on N Kerch Street for the Luke Bryan concert on September 22. Podgorski seconded. Motion carried.

Bruner said **Alliant is looking to expand the size of their substation** north of the village limits. It is in our extra-territorial limits. Kuhlman said the Town of Rutland has been discussing this with Alliant, and the Town of Rutland

has approved. Bruner said they're expanding. Kuhlman said they will build the new one before they cut power to the old one. Berland said it looks like they're building a larger substation. **Olson made a motion that there are no comments on the extraterritorial zoning in the Town of Rutland for the Alliant Energy rezone petition.** Berland seconded. Motion carried.

Berland would like to table a discussion on the **citizen communication app** to a future meeting. He will send an email. There's a 10-minute recording. He received this from GoGov. We can digitize forms into an app that would include push notifications. It's not expensive. It's \$3,000 a year. It might not be worth considering. In Media Committee, they talked about a way to push notifications to smart phones. **Berland made a motion to postpone the citizen communication app to the first meeting in October.** Podgorski seconded. Motion carried.

Bruner said several received an email from someone expressing concern about the Belleville Fire Department. He responded back telling him we don't have any affiliation with the Belleville Fire Department.

2024 budgets – Kuhlman and Spilde went through their budgets. She's still waiting for health insurance rates. We received the levy limit worksheet. Net new construction is 2.534%, which is an increase in levy of \$17,723. We have not gotten state transportation aid, nor the shared revenue values yet. Health insurance should be coming out next week. There weren't a lot of changes for clerk or public works budgets. Cemetery will go up, assessor went up \$8,000 per contract, etc. Bruner asked if increase in shared revenue will offset loss of personal property tax. Kuhlman said we will get personal property tax aid in 2025. What we stop charging for personal property, we will get aid for in 2025. Podgorski asked when we start working on the budget. Kuhlman said at the next meeting we'll be starting. Podgorski said if we have something to bring to the board for budget, it should be next month. Kuhlman agreed.

Fire/EMS District Commission – Brusberg said they had a meeting last week. There was much discussion on the **budget**. Materials have the run volumes for EMS -21 runs for July; 10 runs were staffed with AEMT. Out of service hours was 42 for July, compared to 30 in June. Doesn't necessarily mean there isn't personnel there, but there might be only one. So with only one, they're out of service. Fire budget was passed as part of the meeting. It's a 4.85% increase. In terms of the mill rate, you can see the reduction from .52 to .49, driven by the fact equalized values grew. Biggest contributor to year over year increase is salaries for the chief. It's not due to increased wages, but an adjustment in allocation from a 60-40 split fire-EMS to 50-50. The wage increase to the chief is 3% increase. That's on top of 3% earlier this year and also for receiving EMT designation. On EMS side, the detail level isn't there. But there is a budget in totality that they will hold themselves accountable to, which is no more than a 5% increase. There is an adjustment in run revenue from \$70,000 to \$60,000. With Oregon staffing multiple ambulances, that will have an impact on run revenue. They have to work through all the detail accounts. They have to put more in for WRS because additional employees are meeting eligibility. They're recommending a 5% increase, and they will work out in October to get to that amount in all the accounts. Berland asked if there are concerns the per capita increase is 5%. Brusberg said we're only allowed to do CPI plus 2% for the levy, so that's where some of these details have to be ironed out with the per capita adjustments, because of the population decline. The cap of 5% in total comes into play because we might have to go slightly lower to work backwards. The expectation is clear that once we get signoff at the joint district meeting, that over the month of October they will work through the details. There was a letter included, and the expectation he would have for budget is any kind of FTE need does not get brought up solely at budget time. There needs to be a series of meetings exploring various options before hiring. This was brought up at budget time. That's not acceptable. That was never part of the dialogue over the last six months. It wasn't reflected in the budget detail. The joint meeting is in late September, and Kathy Pennington from Town of Brooklyn will chair the meeting, to maintain some rotation across the municipalities. The **Fire-EMS district agreement** was included. The material changes are around the retirement program with the CD and highlights calling out the adjusted personnel and officer ranks. Pages 6, 7, 12 and 13 are changes. The adjustments are consistent with what was talked about in the past. Bruner asked if there is any idea when the **new ambulance** will be here. Brusberg said now it seems like they're tracking toward getting a chassis. Lifeline has a surplus of chassis now expected. We still have the \$89,000 grant and

unallocated funds, so no municipality should have to take out a loan. **Financials** have included expenses for Luke Bryan concert in EMS. Sarah will separate those out. Olson asked if they will be reimbursed by the concert. Brusberg confirmed that. **Brusberg made a motion to approve the adjusted district agreement with the language called out.** Groenier seconded. Motion carried.

Personnel Committee – Kuhlman passed out budget sheets for Dane County Sheriff's Department for next year, and they are not set in stone because the unions haven't finalized an agreement. This shows a 3% increase. They also show the overtime hours. The last page is the squad breakdown. It will be over four years, about \$18,000 per year. She put in amounts for a second deputy and the shared revenue, and we're still \$40,000 short. She used assumption of same wages as Grumke. Brusberg said we have \$105,000 of potential toward a second officer. Kuhlman added the \$18,000 for the squad. Brusberg said with overtime we're spending \$71,000, so in theory we could bump overtime to 20 or 24 hours. Kuhlman can't remember if we can increase overtime hours more than 16. She will double check that. Brusberg asked if we can set dollars aside separately to put dollars aside for special events. It's easier to put dollars that we have room for into police protection, and then work our way there, so we earmark the dollars. Kuhlman said over the past few years, we put money aside from changing over to the sheriff's department, and last year there was \$12,500 left, and she has put that into the budget for the police department already this year. Brusberg said the net new construction should increase next year. If we're running favorable in 2024, we could authorize to move forward on the police side. Bruner said we need to do it going forward. Olson said we're building the capacity. Kuhlman pulled out last year and this year overtime stats. We've had 34 weeks this year, so 544 hours. We have used 433 hours and 140 of those were Grumke's overtime. So that was 13 hours a week average of overtime. Last year was different. There were 46 weeks total of overtime, which was 736 hours. We used 775. However, that was due to the fact Grumke was on baby leave for 2 months and Labor Day hours. Also, Grumke has told her he is approached by other deputies who would like to do overtime hours before their third shift, because they'd like to do it before their shift rather than after; and deputies also approached Spilde at Labor Day and said the same thing. She wanted to make the board aware, as far as coverage, if they wanted to consider moving Grumke to days to help the school situation and would still probably get overtime staffed. Brusberg said based on stats from Dane County, predominantly the majority are happening during the day. Kuhlman said starting at 2 p.m. Bruner said we have more calls when Grumke is on duty, but they're initiated by him. Based on what they have, most of our activity is like 2 to 6 p.m. Brusberg asked what if we entertain Grumke shifting more towards daytime hours and flex where needed and use overtime hours to fill the evening gap. Bruner doesn't want to put him on full-time daytime. Kuhlman said Dane County won't allow you to do a daytime then a nighttime. It would have to be full-time days and he could flex hours with overtime. Brusberg is not opposed to him shifting to days and flex where needed, especially if we can have overtime hours with other deputies in the evenings. Bruner asked if we need to act on this tonight. Kuhlman said no, but to start thinking about it during budget, and thinking about the squad leasing or purchasing. We can't purchase from Dane County, and she is still looking for answers on leasing. Olson said that was one reason for leasing. Brusberg said if we were to go down the path of hiring another full-time officer, someone with seniority could bump Grumke from going to days. Berland said if we set him in first shift before we do a second hire, they can't bump him. Kuhlman will check with the school again.

Berland discussed in Personnel recommending that the Personnel Committee do performance reviews for department heads. **Berland made a motion that the personnel committee take formal ownership of performance reviews for Spilde and Kuhlman.** Brusberg seconded. Motion carried.

Berland made a motion at 8:29 p.m. to go into closed session. Groenier seconded. Ayes – Groenier, Berland, Olson, Bruner, Podgorski and Brusberg. Noes-none.

Berland made a motion at 8:44 p.m. to exit closed session. Groenier seconded. Ayes – Groenier, Berland, Olson, Bruner, Podgorski and Brusberg. Noes-none.

Brusberg made a motion to approve the first amendment to the PCS site agreement with redline versions as suggested by the lawyer. Berland seconded. Motion carried.

Berland made a motion to approve wage increases for Village of Brooklyn employees as stated: Kuhlman to go to \$29/hour, Olson to go to \$24/hour, Spilde to \$38/hour, Roberts to go to \$31.10/hour with an incentive of 50 cent increase to base for each test passed toward certification, Brandon to go to \$25.50/hour and Reilly to go to \$22/hour with same incentive of an increase of 50 cents per test passed toward certification. Brusberg seconded. Motion carried.

Podgorski made a motion at 8:47 p.m. to adjourn. Groenier seconded. Motion carried.

Linda Kuhlman, WCMC, CMTW
Clerk-Treasurer

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**Brooklyn Village Board Meeting Minutes  
September 25, 2023**

The September 25, 2023, Village Board meeting of the Village of Brooklyn was called to order at 6:30 p.m. at the Village Hall by President Mark Bruner. Trustees present were Chris Groenier, Michael Gehrman, Dan Olson, David Berland, Mike Brusberg and Janeen Podgorski. Also present were Sue McCallum and Clerk-Treasurer Linda Kuhlman. Pledge of Allegiance.

**Public Comments** - Mike Gehrman commented the sheriff's deputy was awesome on the day of the concert. There was a fire call by his house, and the deputy ran in with a fire extinguisher and put out the fire. He did a nice job. He was the first one on the scene, ran in with the fire extinguisher, and probably saved a lot of damage on the house. He's sure it goes unnoticed, so it's nice to let everyone know our deputy takes care of our citizens.

**President's report** – Bruner expressed sincere appreciation to Klondike Farms and Erika and Kevin Klahn for hosting an awesome event. He's appreciative of the patience dealing with the logistics. He thanked Luke Bryan and his people because they put on a heck of a show.

**Olson made a motion to postpone minutes of September 11.** Berland seconded. Motion carried.

**Clerk's Report** – We received an email from **Brooklyn Mighty Mites**, and they are interested in making new birdhouses for the cemetery and planting flowers at the cemetery next spring. They want to start making the birdhouses this winter. The board had no objections. **Sprint/T-Mobile contract** was sent to the company, and they had no comments on any of our changes. He sent it to the legal department to sign, and then will send it to us. **Joint municipality fire/EMS** meeting is tomorrow at 6:30 and Wednesday is the **senior center** joint meeting. Our **election machine is going in for annual maintenance** tomorrow. Olson and Kuhlman went to the Municipal Treasurer's Association meeting last week. We had a DOR employees was there and others talking about **Act 12**. One of the parts of Act 12 is the maintenance of effort. Every year we need to certify with the fire and EMS departments that they are maintaining or increasing two of the following four: expenditures, number of full-time firefighters and EMS personnel, level of training and maintenance of licensure for personnel and response times for fire protection and EMS. If we don't maintain or increase, we lose 15% of our shared revenue for the following year. She will mention it at the meeting tomorrow. Department of Revenue received a lot of questions from treasurers last week, and DOR is working on how the process will work. We heard back from **Alliant regarding gas lines at Hotel Street**. They did locates and there are no gas facilities on the east side of the building. They did not see anything that would cause concern on the west side of the building where the gas line is. They looked at the electrical months ago. The electrical is fine going to the building, and once it reaches the building, it's the owner's responsibility. We put in the **insurance claim** from the wind storms, for the building at public works, the damage to

the well and the lift station. There was discussion about the materials for the building at public works, and it has been worked out. We have received the check for \$17,189. Kaiser Construction came in today and we gave them a check for the total of the project of \$11,630.

**Public Works Committee** – Olson discussed **painting the curb on North Rutland**. He said the painting has been done, but we need approval from the board. There was almost an accident because people parked too close and they couldn't see the road. Olson said the curbs by the stop sign and the other side, they will discuss making it no parking, so you can see to get out on MM. Groenier said he's okay with making a certain section by Marcie no parking also. **Olson made a motion to approve the no parking at 425-441 N Rutland, 20 feet north and 20 feet south of the driveway, and paint it yellow**. Groenier seconded. Motion carried.

Olson stated they received **new quote for cemetery mowing** for next season. We're paying \$325/mowing now. They would like to increase it to \$400 for each mowing and extend the contract with Frank Simpson to mow the cemetery. Gehrman asked if it includes the tree trimming. Olson said yes and he also clears trees. Podgorski asked how often they mow. Olson said once a week, but they're going to talk to him that if it's in a dry season, to only do one and half weeks. That will be part of the contract. **Brusberg made a motion to approve increase from \$325 to \$400**. Berland seconded. Motion carried. **Focus on Energy grant** – Olson said Public works worked with Focus on Energy for grant money and replaced all the decorative lights going down West Main and by the gazebo to LEDs. **Public works report** – chemical pump upgrade on wells, the chlorine and pumps have been replaced. Well 1 inspection will start the first week of October. That's where they tear it down and go through it. They pull it out and pump all the sand out. Monthly samples were taken and safe. **Sewer** – they replaced battery backups in all lift stations. Sunrise lift station is still having some issues and they're waiting on parts. Gehrman asked what happens if power goes down on the lift stations. Olson said they have battery backups that will work until they can get the generator hooked up. We have a mobile generator. **Emergency management** updated the IDs. The cooling shelter was open August 23-24, but no one used it. **Streets** -- The 2019 F250 is at surplus and auction ends the 26th. Brooklyn Commons phase 4 second lift of blacktop was done on 9-12-23, so the pavement is completed up there. The WISLR 2023 is completed. That's a report for the condition and number of roads. Highway 92 plan was reviewed for 2025. Highway 104 a tree fell in the road. Village hall locks have been changed.

**Planning & Zoning Commission** – Bruner stated O&A Manufacturing came in with plans, and there's a slight change to the CSM. There was one corner that the way the lines were drawn, they would be encroaching on the setback. It was a short meeting. Podgorski asked if they owe us landscaping plans. Olson said they have to hand in landscaping. Kuhlman said they won't have much, because it's mostly warehouse and stormwater, so it will only be in front of the building.

**New Business** – Olson looked over bills and there are additional bills. He reviewed the additional bills. **Olson made a motion to approve the bills as presented with the eight additional bills that were added to the check register**. Brusberg seconded. Motion carried.

**Resolution 2023-18 Intent to Reimburse** - Kuhlman stated the resolution is because part of the Business Park project includes upgrading the Kerch Street lift station, and they will start that upgrade in the next month. Because we haven't borrowed the funds yet for the project, we need a resolution to allow us to include these charges into the funds borrowed in the future. **Brusberg made a motion to adopt Resolution 2023-18**. Gehrman seconded. Motion carried.

**GoGov software** – Berland said a video was sent to all board members. Brusberg asked if the biggest value is for those who have smart devices. Berland said it will serve people with smart devices and will allow push capabilities. It's an AI inclusive program for \$3,600 per year. Seems relatively robust. Gehrman asked if anyone else is doing this around here. Berland said they had examples of others that use it. Gehrman asked if Oregon does anything similar. Berland hasn't seen anything there. The app is customizable. Bruner asked about maintenance of it. If something needs to be addressed, who's responsible for adding that information. Kuhlman said there are several



other companies that do this, including one brought to the board a few years ago called HeyGov. We should look around at other programs. Berland said they will update within the app within the contract. Rather than going to all the places to do the post, this would do it all from one place, so the clerks won't have to do it separately in all places. Brusberg asked how much time savings it would be. Kuhlman hasn't explored it fully yet. Berland said it wouldn't save that much time. It will be savings of time for communications, but it won't be a lot, but it will be a repository for citizens, and with the push notifications, it will make it easier for citizens to get information. Groenier thinks it's more of a convenience thing. **Berland made motion to table the discussion on the citizen communication app, sending it back to communication committee to develop a bid package for a citizen communication app.** Groenier seconded. Motion carried.

**Senior Center budget contribution** – Brusberg asked what has caused wages to dramatically increase over the last couple of years. McCallum said they did a study on wages. Brusberg asked if they have added bodies. McCallum said they have two full-time case managers, the director and assistant director, and about a year ago hired, through a grant first, another assistant. They have 5 full-time people. They did a study on wage rates and were planning to increase the budget in 2024. They did the study at the end of 2022, but it would show up on budgets for 2024, the increased wage rates. Mike Brusberg said the salaries for operations went from \$31,900 to \$53,000 and on top of that they're increasing that to \$57,000. It was a partial year of full-time in 2022 and increased in 2023. Discussion about salaries. Brusberg saw day programs doubled for increases. They had a lot of increases for salaries. Olson said they had increases in the Village of Oregon in their actual employees helping the senior center, so that's where you're seeing wage increase also, in the wages of Village of Oregon staff helping the senior center. Brusberg asked how long we've been paying \$15,000. Kuhlman and McCallum said it's been at least 8 to 10 years. Olson said we're over some years and under some years. Brusberg asked if we have an idea of what Brooklyn residents' consumption is. Berland said they break it down, but the bulk of the \$25,000 is based solely on population. McCallum said it's use. Berland said \$11,000 is use and \$14,000 is based on population of the area. McCallum said they take into account how many times residents go to the senior center, which is a use factor. Berland said our population skews younger in Brooklyn, and we don't have as many people who are going to use the senior center. McCallum said she provided previously demographics from the last census, which shows the seniors are growing in population. Kuhlman said Berland is talking about Dane County side of the village. McCallum said the baby boomers group is growing. Berland would be interested to see census demographics from 2022 for each of the participants in the agreement and base proration of cost on those demographics, rather than full population. Brusberg said case management it's 1.1% of the services; for outreach we're a small slice. Berland we're being asked to pay 3-4% of total budget. Brusberg said outreach is 3.3% and then another \$14,000 for population. We've been doing \$15,000 for quite a while. If we do CPI adjust from 2013, it would be \$20,000. That still feels like a lot. His suggestion is to meet in the middle at \$17,500. McCallum said with the contract, at the meeting last week Town of Rutland and Town of Oregon, Village of Oregon and herself, they discussed where to go with the contract. They had explored the original contract, the current contract that expires end of this year, and if you plug the numbers in the old contract, the people in the new contract would be paying more. Town of Oregon and Town of Rutland want to develop a new contract, but it could take time and what do you do in the meantime with services and commitments. That's why they want to know what we want to spend because they need to do the budget. Berland asked if we don't do the \$25,000, what are services would we lose. McCallum said the doors will be still open, and residents can still walk in, but maybe they'll have to pay more fees for programs. But basically all they could do is lose a person. They would probably cut back on case management hours. Even though they get money from the county to help support, it's not the entire cost. Brusberg said we're using 1% of case management services provided. Brusberg also said those in Green County don't get full services. McCallum said they can't get case management or meals and transportation. They do work with Green County also. Berland said the median age in 2020 was 36 years and fell to 33.9 in 2021, so we're skewing pretty young. Only 22% of population is over 50 years old. Bruner said which is still 300 people. Berland said if the Village of Oregon has a population that is 40% over 50 years old, why are we shouldering the costs. Brusberg said when they spread the fixed costs, they're spreading on population not the age of the citizens themselves. They've also layered in village hall staff fixed costs of \$27,000. That's their way of handling the payroll and admin tasks that they don't have at the senior center. Gehrman would treat it more like the school, people who don't have kids are paying for other people's kids to go

school. Just because we don't have as many old people, some of that costs needs to be spread around to everyone else to help take care of the seniors. You're never going to have a perfect fix to allocate it. Are we covering it for our portion for seniors who are using stuff without getting too into the minutia. Brusberg doesn't want to get into the weeds, nor is he questioning the value of the services provided. But until all citizens are covered for all services without having to jump through hoops to do it, he struggles into joining a contract. He's in favor of increases and we should increase over time. He has issues with basically making decisions on behalf of others without bringing them along and communicating effectively with them. Berland would be comfortable with \$19,000. It's approximately reflective of services rendered calculations. He would feel comfortable feeling yes, this covers what our citizens are using and more of the fixed costs. Bruner said his feeling was \$20,000 but would be willing to compromise at \$19,000. **Berland made a motion to volunteer a contribution of a maximum of \$19,000 to the Oregon Senior Center for fiscal 2024.** Brusberg seconded. Motion carried. Olson opposed. McCallum asked when they are going forward with looking at the contract, the other thing they were talking about is whether to appoint someone from the board level as part of this contract process or should she continue to bring information back. How would the municipality like to participate in that discussion. Bruner would like to have McCallum stay on. Gerhmann said it's good to know what's going on and knowing if we have some kind of input.

**2024 budgets** – Kuhlman passed out wage and health insurance spreadsheets. She put the supplemental shared revenue into the budget and put in the police wages and added a separate line for the squad outlay. We are \$46,000 over budget right now. Some other contributions -- our shared revenue decreased about \$12,000; which is based on assessment ratio and equalized value. We lost \$8,000 rent from bank and our assessment costs increased \$8,000 due to contract. Brusberg asked about reassessment needed in 2024. Kuhlman said it will be in 2025. Discussion on assessment ratio. Kuhlman put into the budget \$276,000 for police wages, which is close to what two full-time officers will be. Gehrman asked if we take the budget right now, we're short, and can we increase that with a levy increase. Kuhlman said no, the levy is in. You need to reallocate expenses, and the biggest category is with policing. We haven't heard from the school district yet. Brusberg asked about the squad leasing, if it goes out of service, will we get a replacement. Kuhlman hasn't been able to confirm that because Captain Porter has been out. Kuhlman asked about the possibility of increasing interest income account. Brusberg and Berland discussed an increase and suggested increasing it to \$20,000. Brusberg would like to reconvene at a future meeting on the idea of Deputy Grumke's schedule. If we're going to be more successful on filling the afternoon and evening shifts, based on feedback from the county, it seems we should talk about shifting him more to days. Olson said he would like to see a guarantee of coverage in the evenings, because filling overtime hours now is sporadic. Berland said it's easier to fill before third shift, but it's hard to get that guarantee. Brusberg asked if we can validate that with Captain Porter and squad questions. Clerk and Public Works budget stayed pretty much the same. Board will discuss capital budget in next meetings. Berland asked about budgets for water and sewer. Kuhlman will talk to the school about where we sit with the budget right now on deputies.

Bruner would like to remind members of ordinance committee that we are meeting next Monday at 6 p.m.

**Groener made a motion at 7:51 p.m. to adjourn.** Berland seconded. Motion carried.

Linda Kuhlman, WCMC, CMTW  
Clerk-Treasurer

# November

2023

| Sunday                                | Monday                                         | Tuesday                                                                   | Wednesday                                           | Thursday                                                                               | Friday                                               | Saturday                                            |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
|                                       |                                                |                                                                           | 1<br><b>Garbage</b><br>Yoga 6p                      | 2<br>Bookmobile –<br>Gazebo 6-730p                                                     | 3                                                    | 4                                                   |
| 5                                     | 6<br>PIYO 6p                                   | 7<br><b>Tires, Oil &amp; Battery Pick-up</b><br>Ballet 4-645pm            | 8<br><b>Garbage &amp; Recycling</b><br>Yoga 6p      | 9<br>Bookmobile –<br>Gazebo 6-730p                                                     | 10                                                   | 11                                                  |
| 12                                    | 13<br><b>Village Board Mtg 630p</b><br>PIYO 6p | 14<br><b>Brush Pick-up Planning/Zoning Meeting 6 pm</b><br>Ballet 4-645pm | 15<br><b>Garbage</b><br>Yoga 6p                     | 16<br>Bookmobile-<br>Gazebo 6-730p                                                     | 17                                                   | 18                                                  |
| 19                                    | 20<br>PIYO 6p                                  | 21<br>Ballet 4-645pm                                                      | 22<br><b>Garbage &amp; Recycling</b><br><br>Yoga 6p | 23<br><b>Clerk's &amp; Public Work's Dept Closed</b><br><br><b>Happy Thanksgiving!</b> | 24<br><b>Clerk's &amp; Public Work's Dept Closed</b> | 25                                                  |
| 26<br>FREE Double Feature Movies 1-5p | 27<br><b>Village Board Mtg 630p</b><br>PIYO 6p | 28<br>Ballet 4-645pm                                                      | 29<br><b>Garbage</b><br>Yoga 6p                     | 30<br>Bookmobile-<br>Gazebo 6-730p                                                     | Exercise Classes held at Brooklyn Community Bldg     | **\$ 10/Tire<br>Contact Clerk's Office 608-455-4201 |