

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

November 2023 Village News

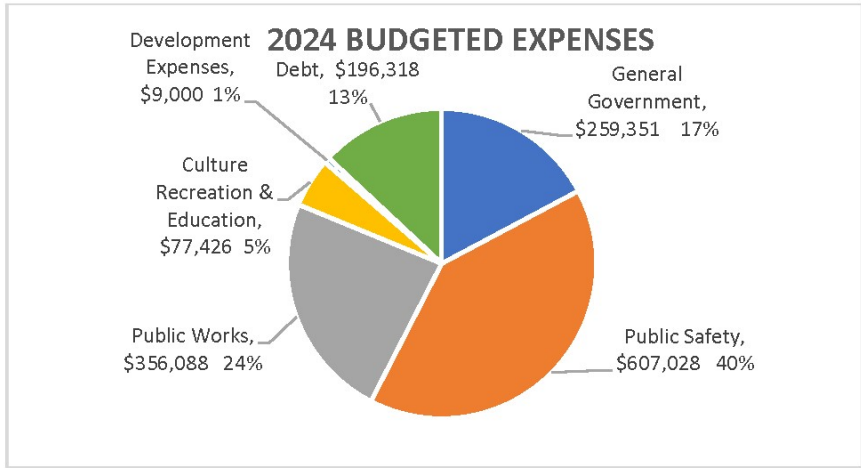
Clerk's Office - 455-4201
Fax - 455-1385
PO Box 189, 210 Commercial St
Email: clerk@brooklynwi.gov

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

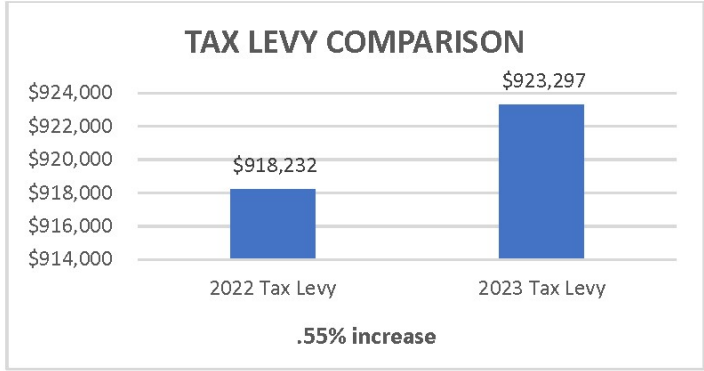
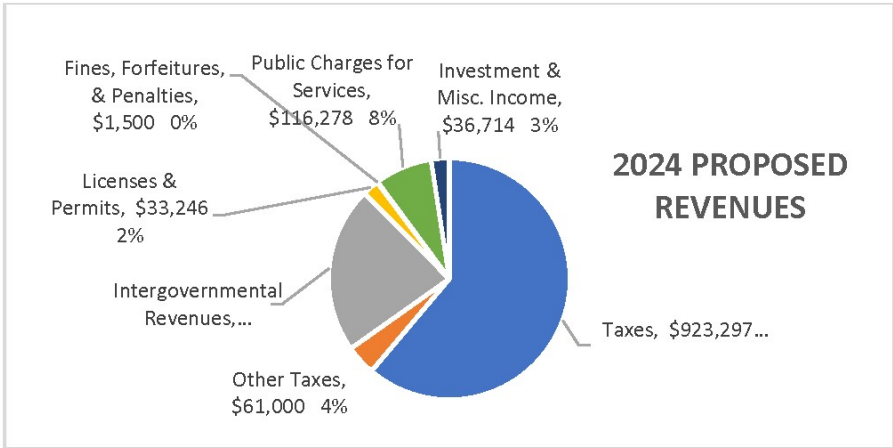
**The Clerk's Office & Public Works Department
will be closed on Thursday, November 23 and
Friday, November 24.**





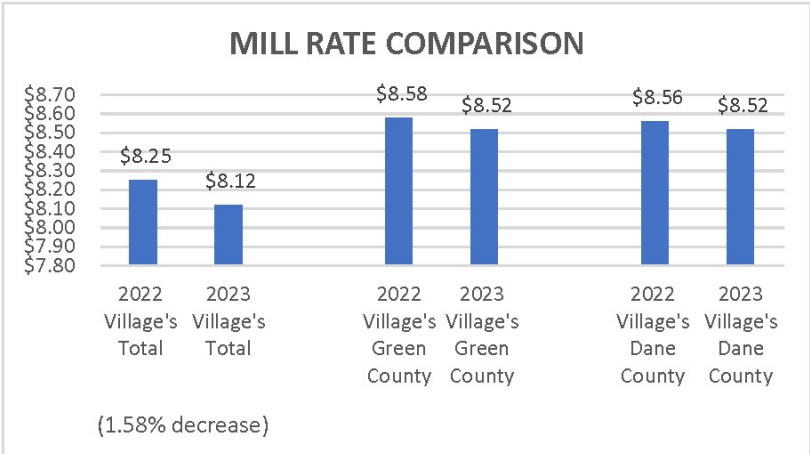
VILLAGE OF BROOKLYN
 approved a 2024 total general fund budget of \$1,308,892, plus debt of \$196,318. This is an increase in general fund expenses of \$91,195 from 2023. Debt decreased \$24,873 from 2023.

Total taxes help to fund general fund expenses, cemetery expenses and debt.



Clerk's office: 608-455-4201 ext 1 or 2
clerk@brooklynwi.gov
deputyclerk@brooklynwi.gov
www.brooklynwi.gov

The counties have not yet supplied their tax levy information. Once we receive that, the total Dane County and Green County mill rates will be posted on the Village website and in December's newsletter.



BROOKLYN FIRE & EMS

ANNUAL THANKSGIVING GIVEAWAY

ENTRY DEADLINE

Saturday, November 18th 2023

It's that time of year again. We want to give you a free Thanksgiving Meal. We will do the shopping and deliver it to you. All you have to do is enter to win, cook and enjoy a festive feast with your family!

We will be giving away 2 Thanksgiving baskets each worth

\$100.00

1 Basket – For a family in need this holiday season and just needing a little extra boost of help.

1 Basket – For a family who is deserving that goes above and beyond for others

DELIVERY DATE

Sunday, November 19th 2023



To sign-up for the chance to win the only requirement we have is that you live within the Brooklyn Fire & EMS district.

TO SIGN-UP

EMAIL

departmentevents@brooklynfireems.org

WHAT TO INCLUDE IN YOUR EMAIL

1. Name
2. Address
3. Phone Number
4. The reason why you or the person you are nominating would like to win this holiday season

COMMUNITY HEARTSAVERS CPR CLASS

Hosted by Brooklyn Fire & EMS

Friday, November 17th from 10 am to 2 pm

Please call (608) 455-3812 to register.

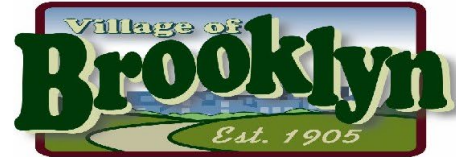
Brooklyn Fire & EMS will cover the cost of the class!



Join us in the fight to end hunger!

Donate to our virtual food drive

pellitteri.com/thanksgiving



BROOKLYN FREE MOVIE

PG 13

SUN., NOV. 26 AT 1 PM
COMMUNITY BUILDING
102 N. RUTLAND AVE.

Bring your own chairs and blankets.

**OMG!
SANTA!**





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

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## SANTA DAY

DECEMBER 2

11 A.M. TO 1 P.M.

JOIN THE BROOKLYN  
CHAMBER AND VISIT  
WITH SANTA AND YOU  
COULD **WIN** THIS  
BEAUTIFUL LIVE BLUE  
SPRUCE TREE FOR  
CHRISTMAS.

Brooklyn Dairy Queen Isabelle  
Brewer will be present

# *Brooklyn Area Chamber Annual Santa Day*

**Saturday, December 2**

**11 am to 1 pm**



Brooklyn Methodist Church  
Corner of Rutland & Hwy 92

**\*Bring Your Camera to  
take a photo with Santa.**

**\*FREE Regifting center,  
Methodist Church's children's free store - shop for family members,  
with gift wrapping (Children 12 and under)**

**\*Requesting new/like new items to be  
donated to the regifting center. Please contact Cleo (608) 455-8595.**

Baked goods and treats will be for sale as well as \$1.00 hot dogs.

The Methodist Church appreciates all the Brooklyn area residents who donated to the vegetable stand and the Little Pantry. It's amazing how much goes in and goes out everyday. The stand is on vacation until spring but the pantry is in business everyday. Those who can help can do so and those who need help can help themselves to whatever they can use.





**The Dane County Library Service Bookmobile - Thursday evening stops (6-7:30p) at the gazebo at Hotel and Commercial Streets. Library users are encouraged to place holds for items they would like or to use the library's Browse Bundle service: <https://www.dcls.info/browsebundles> to have library staff select titles for you. Contact Dane County Library Service with questions at 608-266-9297 or [bookmobile.dcl@gmail.com](mailto:bookmobile.dcl@gmail.com).**



Taking out the trash becomes easier with the new mobile app from Pellitteri Waste Systems, our community's waste disposal and recycling company.

# ELECTION WORKERS NEEDED FOR 2024

CONTACT THE VILLAGE CLERK'S OFFICE FOR MORE DETAILS 608-455-4201.  
(High school students aged 16 and over are welcome – excellent community service hours)

## THREE TRUSTEE POSITIONS AVAILABLE



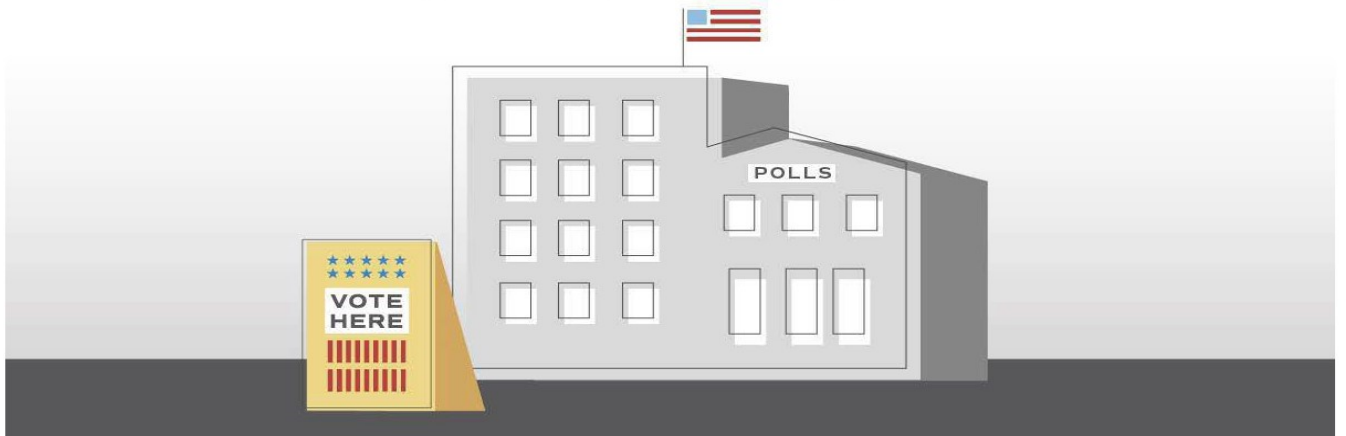
Three Trustee are up for election in the spring.

Starting December 1<sup>st</sup>, nomination paperwork can be circulated. If interested, please contact the clerk's office, or download the paperwork from the village website [www.brooklynwi.gov](http://www.brooklynwi.gov).

Nomination papers need to be returned to the clerk's office by 5 pm on Tuesday, January 2, 2024. If a primary is necessary, it will be held in February.



## It's Election Day! Find your polling place.



## VILLAGE OF BROOKLYN RESIDENTS

Starting in 2024 voting will be held at the  
Village Hall, 210 Commercial Street



## 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  
12<sup>th</sup> day of June 2023.



**American  
Red Cross**

**GIVE SOMETHING THAT**  
*Means Something®*

**GIVE BLOOD**

## **Brooklyn Blood Drive**

**Brooklyn Fire EMS  
401 West Main**

**Saturday, December 30, 2023  
8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

For an appointment call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit  
[RedCrossBlood.org](https://RedCrossBlood.org) and enter Sponsor Code: BrooklynWI

You can save up to 15 minutes when you donate blood by using RapidPass! Visit  
[RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass](https://RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass) for more information.



**Make a Legendary Impact! Come give Dec. 18 thru Jan.  
5 for NEW long-sleeved Red Cross Tee, ltd qty!**



Scan to schedule  
an appointment.

**Schedule your blood donation appointment today!**

1-800-RED CROSS | [RedCrossBlood.org](https://RedCrossBlood.org) | Download the Blood Donor App

© 2023 The American National Red Cross | 432201-02 CW

Help protect those who protect you!  
#MoveOver #SlowDown



# November 2023 News from Your Senior Center

By Rachel Brickner

The Oregon Area Senior Center provides sit-down meals to members of the public every weekday except Thursdays. Dane County recently contracted with a new caterer to provide those meals, and the options for consumers continue to expand compared to past providers.

The new caterer, AtlantisValley Foods, provides a traditional entrée every day, but also offers other options. There is a meatless option daily. There is a salad option Monday through Thursday. The salad option can be made meatless by swapping out the meat for chickpeas. Dessert for any meal can be switched to a no concentrated sweets option.

These meals choices mean that there is a healthy and appropriate option for almost everyone. People who need to watch their carbohydrate intake can enjoy a salad and a no concentrated sweets dessert and stay within their dietary requirements.

I have heard very positive feedback from meal consumers. There is more enthusiasm for the quality of the food than there has previously been in the 13 years I have worked at the Center.

For people 60 and up, the cost of the meal is a donation, with a recommended minimum donation of \$4.50. (But donations are made anonymously, and people are asked to give only what they can afford.) To order a meal, you must reserve it in advance—call 608-835-5801 at least two days in advance.

Meals are also available for home delivery to people who qualify as homebound. Those meals are available Monday through Friday and include all the same options. To see if you might qualify, please call 608-835-5801 and ask to speak to a case manager.

Transportation to the Senior Center for lunch is available to Dane County residents.

On Thursdays, when there is no meal at the Senior Center, the senior dining option is at Ziggy's in Oregon. That lunch option involves an eight-meal menu that diners can select from. Again, the cost of the meal is a donation.

Good nutrition is important to good health. Preparing healthy meals can become more challenging as we age. Take advantage of the Senior Center's meal options to make sure that you are getting at least one healthy, balanced meal five days each week. Call 608-835-5801 with any questions.

Click on the link to see the [November Senior Center Letter](#)

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## Brooklyn Village Board Meeting Minutes October 9, 2023

The October 9, 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 Michael Gehrmann, Dan Olson, David Berland, Mike Brusberg and Janeen Podgorski. Trustee Chris Groenier was absent. Also present were Representative Jenna Jacobson, Jason Marshall and Clerk-Treasurer Linda Kuhlman. Pledge of Allegiance.

**Public Comments** – Bruner introduced Representative Jenna Jacobson. Jacobson stated she represents District 43 and wanted say hello and pass out copies of the 2023-2024 Blue Books. If anyone wants one, contact her and she will get one out. The district is long and narrow. She lives in Oregon. The area also has Edgerton, Stoughton and Village of Footville. It goes up to McFarland, but doesn't include McFarland, and down past Janesville, but doesn't include Janesville. It consists of 11 townships, 3 villages and 2 cities. She's available if anyone has questions or issues with any state agency.

**Jason Marshall** wanted to thank the board. He wants to make a few comments and doesn't want hard feelings. Stacey has been on recreation committee. They bought the bar. They want to contribute to make the town better. It's time for the board to step up. They've talked about the dead tree overhanging the commercial street. Nobody has discussed that. He's heard no more on the sidewalk discussions. Winter is coming up and that will be a problem. As a board, step up and solve that problem. He's done with it. There are ordinances for parking in the alley, and multiple cars haven't moved in six months. That's taking parking away from customers. Step up and enforce the ordinance. We have multiple campers in town where people are staying in them. There's more than one. There's Douglas' place and the old Kounty Korner building. Get ordinances in place if that's what it takes to solve some of these problems. What's wrong. You're on the board to improve. Let's make things better. That tree is a big deal. That's on public sidewalk, a commercial street. At some point those branches will break off. Step up. It's not about money. He's friends with board members and it's caused problems and it shouldn't. This is the board's job. You're not here to make friends, and if everything he brought up is not wrong, he doesn't know. He's not going to listen to the board discussion, because he knows nothing will happen. If you can sit here and everything he brought up is right and okay, so be it. He's willing to help the people. The person across the street, go talk to him. They can assist. He told Douglas he could help. The sidewalk issue, he can only do so much. The cars in the alley, he can only do so much. Bruner thanked Marshall for appearing. (Marshall left) (Jacobson left)

**No president's report. Olson made a motion to approve minutes from September 11.** Brusberg seconded. Motion carried. **Olson made a motion to approve the minutes of September 25.** Berland seconded. Motion carried.

**Clerk's report – Financials** were handed out. For September we had \$120,916.25 in deposits and \$192,025.21 in withdrawals, which included a debt payment of \$27,142.50, which leaves a balance at the end of September of \$2,389,564.28. If anyone has questions on the rest of the financials, please ask. Brusberg and Kuhlman went to **senior center** last week and told them we would do \$19,000 but won't sign a contract. The towns did not have their budgets done yet. We have since heard from the Village of Oregon. They came up with a new proposal. Bruner and Kuhlman are meeting them tomorrow. Berland said it sounds like less than what they proposed. Olson and Brusberg were concerned with signing a contract. Bruner said their hands are tied with what they can provide to Green County residents. Podgorski said meals are reimbursed from Green County. Kuhlman said the **Oregon Youth Center** sent a letter. They will be coming to the next board meeting to give an update. We have contributed \$1,500 for a number of years. Olson said they asked for an increase of \$500. He questions if there is any transportation to get people from Brooklyn up to Oregon to use it. How many people are actually using it. Bruner said his daughter used to attend and the bus would drop them off at the youth center and he would pick her up. Olson said that's fine, but what about during the summer. Brusberg is curious how many Brooklyn youth use the services. Kuhlman reported that there was a photo of **Deputy Grumke with one of the kindergartners**. They were having a car parade at school and she wanted to make a Grumke Mobile, so he met with her and showed her the squad car and talked with her about the equipment he uses. **Food truck survey** was given to the recreation committee. Everyone wants it back next year, and there were a lot of comments on different trucks for next year. Brusberg asked what recreation is going to do. Kuhlman didn't know. Gehrman asked if we receive anything. We charge \$50/truck/night or \$250 for the season, and we do pay the bands that come. Kuhlman said the **truck was sold on auction** for about \$40,500. Three years ago we paid \$38,800 for it. We bought the new one for about \$51,000. There was a **broken water main** last week by S. First Street and Bowman Street. It was fixed the next day. They're starting **leaf pickup** this week. The final **Fire/EMS budgets** were handed out. The EMS came in at 9.46%. CPI was 5.4% and we can add 2%. The Department of Revenue adds both budgets together, and together they add up to a 7.2% increase, so we are within the limits. Next year we should look at that again, and maybe not consider increasing just for the increase. It increases the levy the next year, but that covers what we increased the year before, so we don't gain anything on our levy. There's no point in increasing if we don't have to. **Dane County is updating their comprehensive plan.** There is a hearing at the end of November if anyone has any comments.

**New Business** – Brusberg reviewed and Olson reviewed but there's two he can't approve – his and Vicki Olson's. Kuhlman said she added the Mobile gas invoice because it's due the 27<sup>th</sup> of October, so she would like to pay it now to be on time. Olson and Berland reviewed the invoice, totaling \$679.92. **Brusberg made a motion to accept the bills with the amendment of the \$679.92 to Wex Bank.** Berland seconded. Motion carried. Olson abstained.

**Broadband** – Podgorski relayed some information. She's working with Kathy Pennington from Town of Brooklyn to work on broadband expansion to all rural areas. There are two different capital funds projects; one from the state and one federal. Municipalities have to show support to get funding. We provided our telecommunications ordinance that shows our commitment to telecommunications and expanding services to residents, and we're discussing it at this meeting. These are some requirements. Pennington is working with Town of Brooklyn, Town of Oregon, Village of Belleville and us. The information shows we have applied for funding to get some dollars in this area. They will be looking for a capital contribution. That number has not been discussed, nor do they know if they've been accepted. Frontier put the proposal together and submitted it. She handed out maps and explained what they mean. The intention of the maps is to show coverage in Brooklyn area. She wants to show where we have a lack of coverage, if we have to give dollars. This is informational to let everyone know what they've been working on. The proposal was submitted by Frontier on behalf of the municipalities, and when they find out if we are going to be considered, they will get the dollar amounts, and we'll discuss it. Berland said the eligible versus the ineligible is for grant money. But if Frontier builds a substation here, it could generate competition so we don't have to all use Spectrum. The only other option by him is DSL which is Frontier through the phone lines. The only broadband option is Spectrum. Brusberg has broadband. Berland said it looks like it is in some houses and not others. T-Mobile can do home internet but it's unreliable. Podgorski said US Cellular also. Brusberg thought TDS reached out to come to Brooklyn. Podgorski said they're still looking at that potentially. Berland said he'd love to generate competition to drive prices down for our citizens. If we invest in it, it makes sense to expand the broadband connections for everyone. Podgorski said Frontier is the sole carrier option today with this program. All carriers have the ability to apply for the fundings. Pennington went after Frontier because they were willing to listen. Podgorski has reached out to TDS but hasn't learned anything more. If anyone has questions, send them her way and she will work to get answers.

**Berland made a motion to adopt the Memorandum of Understanding for the Wisconsin Elections Commission for the Badger Books as written.** Podgorski seconded. Motion carried.

**Brusberg made a motion to approve \$4,140 with Wisconsin Sign to put new signs up for village hall using ARPA dollars.** Olson seconded. Motion carried.

**Village Hall remodeling** – Bruner said they had a walkthrough with Kuhlman, Spilde, Vicki Olson, Grumke, Gehrman and himself. They looked things over and talked about a wish list for the clerk's office and what sheriff's office would like. They found a couple things that potentially could be issues, and we're looking into the logistics. Strand came today and looked at it at no cost, and they can put together a proposal for possible changes and start basic and build to more. There was discussion with Strand about potential asbestos in the second set of ceiling tiles and also some old floor tiles. They will get us a proposal before the next board meeting with costs for the review. Kuhlman also reached out to General Engineering to see if they could do the same kind of review.

Kuhlman explained that **Selene Homes** has not paid the final utility bill on the last home they sold. They had been watering lawns and didn't get a lawn meter, so the utility bill was high. We sent a letter that we needed payment or we would pursue legal action. Their attorney spoke with our attorney and asked about settlement. Our attorney told him to provide a number to pass on to the board. We have not heard anything further. **Gehrman made motion if we have not received payment from Selene Homes for 316 Elizabeth Circle by October 31, we file small claims court to recover the costs.** Podgorski seconded. Motion carried.

**110 Hotel Street** – Brusberg met with Douglas on the 28<sup>th</sup> and had a good discussion with him. They talked about 45 minutes. He was defensive to begin and emotional and upset about how things were handled. After 10

minutes of trying to focus on relationship building and understanding the situation, they got there. He was a little defensive that Deputy Grumke was there, but after Brusberg explained, he understood. He's struggling from a financial aspect and Brusberg was able to get him ideas of things to help him. He's not stupid, and he knows if there is an issue, he will address the issue if it will put harm on the public. He has no problem with Alliant checking on the gas and electric lines. He would have liked them to announce they were there. He's looking into trimming the tree. From a going forward standpoint, now that we have a baseline of the structure and Alliant weighed in on gas and power lines that those are not a concern for them, we can have these inspected annually. They discussed that and he was on board. He had no hesitation with Alliant coming in each year and doing an annual inspection, as well as the village doing a structural inspection each year. Brusberg doesn't see the business being out there for many years, and thinks the cost for the village in the courts will be substantial and drug out. Brusberg is focused on growth and focused on developing the village and are looking into ways to improve Hotel Street. It's not the end-all-save-all for Douglas, but it's the start of a much better partnership. He will stay in touch with Douglas, and he can reach out to Brusberg at any time. He will say there's no leg for us to stand on for requiring insurance, because we don't have it in the ordinances or legally in the state. We can enforce our behavior towards him and building a better relationship and having the annual inspections done. **Brusberg made a motion that moving forward with 110 Hotel Street, we have an annual inspection done by Alliant Energy of gas and power lines and we entertain the idea of a structural inspection on an annual basis now that we have a baseline.** Olson seconded. Gehrmann asked who will pay for it. He would mandate that he does the inspection and get something in writing that Douglas would be willing to allow an inspection annually and he's fine with gas and power being inspected annually. Brusberg asked about the cost of the structural inspection. Olson thought \$300. Gehrmann said he'd be okay if we covered some, but Douglas also. Gehrmann said we've already had it inspected and there are deficiencies; are we going to require him to fix them in a timely manner if the inspector finds something. Brusberg said there was nothing said that the building was in imminent danger to the public. It just said that the cost of repairs was more than the value of the building. It sounds like he has done some fixed to the building eith the roof. Bruner said as deficient as the building is, as far as meeting codes, are we setting a precedent with not being up to code. Brusberg said we're focusing on this one directly. We don't bring others to the board. He's had one conversation with him directly. The precedent is we need to have one-on-one conversations with these business owners if there's issues, or we need to bring everybody else to the board. If we start picking on one, he will share pictures of all he knows. Bruner said he shared a book but the pictures in the book were cosmetic and not structural. The building may look terrible but it is structurally sound. With this one the tree is growing into the building, and the inspector said it's off the foundation and not structurally sound. He doesn't know that the inspector gave us in his report an exact dimension of how far the west side is leaning, but that's something we need to have so we can track it on an annual basis to see if it's moving or not. Brusberg said we don't have what the baseline was a year ago. If it's shifting a lot, then maybe there are more actions to be taken next year. He's focused on what we know for facts. Gehrmann said it's hard to pull out the whole hot mess on that street. You have Douglas and the bar with the Tyvek and where is the starting point to turn those problems around. That's the hardest part he struggles with. How do we start to turn, because Douglas is not going to fix that place up, make it into a nice store front like some of the other businesses that have been remodeled and turned it into a nice store front. How do we want to encourage growth when we have those boat anchors there with somebody who, we don't know, but may or may not be living there. Podgorski said there is another business without a store front on that street as well, so it's not all about the store fronts. It would be nice, but in reality we have some businesses on Hotel Street that are not store front type businesses. Douglas' is one of them. Brusberg said if we go the path we're going, we will continue this battle that's never going to end and resolve itself. He'd rather focus on the partnership side, maybe that works. What if a year from now we develop a relationship that isn't abrasive. What if we do flip it so that, no, he sees it and gets it, this isn't what I want to do indefinitely. What if we can repair to the point where we now have dialogue. Bruner doesn't know if we have in the building inspection report the amount of lean on the building. He wants that recorded so that when we look at it next year, we can actually track next year. Olson thought he had something in there but might not have a number. Bruner wants something that's trackable. If it moves a quarter of an inch in a year, that's not a big deal. If it moves eight inches in a year, that's a big deal. Brusberg is okay with that and okay with getting it in writing. Douglas was steadfast that he's not going to risk everybody. Gehrmann said there are different levels of risk, and his might be different from others. We need to be clear what our expectations will be

and in writing, so especially if you're meeting one on one, there should be a second person also, and that's why it's important to have something in writing. **Brusberg revised his motion to have an annual inspection done structurally of 110 Hotel Street, cost to be decisioned by the board in terms of the business portion of that cost, with defined measurements of that structure and the lean specifically, as well as annual inspection by Alliant of the gas and electric line, in a letter delivered to Douglas with signature provided.** Olson seconded. Motion carried. Berland abstained.

**Dane County Sheriff deputy coverage** – Kuhlman stated the budget was over by \$36,000 because all the extra funds were put in deputy coverage. She took out enough to make us balance and checked to see what that would give us in coverage. We're about \$63,000 from getting a second full-time deputy. Gehrman asked what cost is for a full-time deputy. Kuhlman said about \$149,000. She got information from Captain Porter that we can increase more than 16 hours a week of overtime coverage, but it's dependent on who is available. The budget is enough for full-time and OT coverage up to 20 hours per week. It doesn't include their increase in wages, but we should have enough in overall police budget, because we included the full year cost of the squad. Olson asked about overtime, what Porter said about a possible change. Kuhlman said he can't guarantee if we switch Grumke to days, that the officers will be more available. He said a lot of the calls are self-generated, so if you look at the calls, it's hard to pinpoint the busiest. Berland said if we shift him to days, we could fill shifts out. Kuhlman said that's what she and Spilde were told by other deputies, and that leaves Grumke available to come in early on snow days as well. Brusberg asked about road closures. Olson said 2025 Highway 92 is being worked on. Highway 14 is also coming up in 2026 possibly. Brusberg asked about the school. Kuhlman spoke with Dr. Bergstrom, and told her we can't get a second deputy next year. The school talked about a one-time raise of \$20,000, but annually they were talking about \$10,000. Kuhlman said a one-time bump of \$20,000 won't help next year. Bergstrom will talk to the school board. Bruner said Town of Rutland might be interested as well. We don't know what kind of coverage they want. Brusberg said if we take the school's \$10,000, and he's not saying we should, would that come with an expectation from the school district in terms of how the policing is done. Kuhlman said they came up with four hours a month is what they said they needed. The rest would be he's in the village in case they have issues. Brusberg has no problem with keeping them engaged, as long as it doesn't come with the expectation that they're involved with the management. He would let Grumke self-manage. He's a huge asset to the community, and he's great with kids, and also with the business park expansion and the influx of more workers, why not shift to days and use the OT hours for later on in the days. He knows it brings questions of what happens at night, but we don't have anyone on late at night anyway. Kuhlman said if there's ever an issue that would arise, he would be willing to flex time to deal with that issue. Brusberg is okay with switching Grumke to days. Olson said the busiest time is during the day anyway for him and into the later afternoon. **Brusberg made a motion to move forward with the budget as designed with the one full-time deputy and 20 hours of overtime, and shift Deputy Grumke to days with the ability to flex, and start it within 30 days or whatever is logistically possible.** Olson seconded. Motion carried.

**Discussion on the budget.** All items have been updated and at the moment we are balanced. Debt service went down about \$23,000, and the total debt amount goes onto the levy. Kuhlman will look at capital fund, water and sewer funds again. The budget will get approved in November. If anyone has questions or changes, let her know. Brusberg asked if we could have a presentation on the long-term cost outlook and balance that with capital amounts tied to water and sewer. Is there even a remote path to decreasing sewer rates. He'd like to get a deep dive review. Kuhlman said Strand or Ehlers could do a review of it, which will come with a price. Strand did it when we upgraded the treatment plant. Brusberg asked for a presentation of a long-term financial picture. Ask Strand what it would cost to look at outstanding debt and the years it runs off. Discussion on capital budget will take place in December.

**Ordinance committee** – Gehrman said they reviewed chief of police ordinances because we don't have a chief of police anymore. They changed the references as appropriate to village board approval or public works and also removed or inserted law enforcement officer in several places. Berland saw instances where village police department was used. Bruner said that is an acceptable term. **Berland made a motion to update ordinances as**



**listed and as the ordinance committee has suggested.** Brusberg seconded. Motion carried. The committee postponed the public nuisance ordinance discussion.

**Fire/EMS Commission** – Brusberg reported they had a short meeting after the all-municipality meeting to elect officers. Mark O’Brien is no longer part of the district commission and is being replaced by a representative from the Town of Oregon. He had excess of 40 years of service to the district. Please thank him for his service. The president is now John Marx from the Town of Brooklyn and Brusberg is now the vice president of the Fire/EMS District. Fire and EMS did a wonderful event with the pancake breakfast. The next meeting is October 18. They will work through the line items in the budget.

**Recreation Committee** – no update due to absence of Trustee Groenier.

**Brusberg made a motion to adjourn 8:13 p.m.** Olson seconded. Motion carried.

Linda Kuhlman, WCMC, CMTW  
Clerk-Treasurer

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### **Brooklyn Village Board Meeting Minutes October 23, 2023**

The October 23, 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 Michael Gehrmann, Dan Olson, David Berland, Mike Brusberg, Janeen Podgorski, and Chris Groenier. Also present were Kelly Allen, Tami Weaver, and Katie Schiefelbein from Oregon Youth Center and Clerk-Treasurer Linda Kuhlman. Pledge of Allegiance.

**Public Comments** – there was a written comment from citizen Erica Dill about parking on N. Rutland.

**President’s Report** – nothing.

**Oregon Youth Center** – Kelly Allen gave background on the organization. They maintain a small profit that maintains the building and hires staff and oversees the program. It’s an after-school and summer program for kids in grades 5-9. It’s a free drop-in program. They have an all-volunteer board of directors. It’s a place for kids to hang out, get snacks and learn life skills. Before 2014 it was overseen by the YMCA. In 2014 the YMCA closed the center, so then the advisory board took over. They’re fortunate that municipalities and Dane County continue to fund them. In 2017 they were approached by Oregon Community Resource Network to build a new youth center. In 2019 the current building was opened, and they have a relationship with Village of Oregon for a land lease for 50 years. The village maintains the grounds and the building. Katie Schiefelbein stated she’s been on the board since 2020 and is interim director. They’ve been open this school year for four months and have steady 30-40 kids per day. Guiding, empowering, engaging and inspiring youth in Oregon school district is their mission. Their volunteers are mostly high school students for their volunteer hours. They have adult volunteers from the community on a weekly or monthly basis and they’re looking for board members. They rely on the community for help with programming. They have a mindfulness class with a local woman, they have practical self-defense class with Infinity Martial Arts, Allen comes as rep of the library, and they are always trying to get new people and programs coming in. They rely on the community for funding from local businesses and municipalities and private donors and community members. They’re looking for community service projects for the kids, so if there is anything in Brooklyn, let them know. In 2021-2022 they had 151 enrolled, in 2022-2023 they had 202 enrolled and

to date they have 81 kids enrolled. The racial identity is Hispanic 7%, other 7%, black 15% and white 71%. Municipalities they're coming from are Fitchburg 5%, outlying communities 10%, Brooklyn 13%, Town of Oregon 15% and Village of Oregon is the largest at 57%. Kids come mostly from RCI and OMS schools. They are also a bus dropoff. They get dropped off and parents get them later. Gender identity is male 75%, female 24% and nonbinary 1%. The grade levels are a lot of 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> graders, 7<sup>th</sup> graders 15% and 8<sup>th</sup> grade 10% and 9<sup>th</sup> graders phase out and move into volunteer roles. Tami Weaver spoke about funding. She's treasurer and has been on the board since 2017. It's a free drop-in program and provides a safe space. She manages payroll, deposits, bills, budget planning, files tax documents, manages financial records and coordinates with director on programming supplies. Majority of funding comes from municipalities. Another big chunk of funding is from Dane County, and United Way is third and they do fundraisers and get donations. Municipalities: Village of Oregon gives most with \$12,000 and Town of Oregon gives \$6,000, Village of Brooklyn gives \$1,500, Town of Dunn \$1,000 and Town of Rutland \$350. Expenses: majority goes to salaries and paying staff of director and assistant director, utilities, insurance, and building maintenance and operating day-to-day activities. Olson asked about Fitchburg students that use the center, how come they're not on the municipality list. Allen said they have been approached in the past, but their priority is the Boys and Girls Club and they're building their own. Gehrmann asked how come it's ¾ boys, and how come it's not closer to a 50-50 mix. Allen said a lot of times they come with friends but sometimes it's equal. Weaver said it was in the past more 50-50. Allen said the half gym takes up a lot and gives more of an energetic atmosphere and they're trying to get more crafting activities and quiet spaces. Brusberg asked if they have programs for girls and boys. Allen said they have scheduled activities and painting and crafting. They can do the sports activities all the time. Olson asked about transportation, how does it work in the summertime for kids to get to the center. Schiefelbein said they don't have a bus in the summer. The way it links with summer school, they could look into getting a bus coordinated with that. Allen said some walk over from summer school. Allen said they talked in the past with the Chamber about getting a bus from Brooklyn. Gehrmann asked how they recruit? Schiefelbein said principals are engaging students and in announcements, sometimes in class newsletters. The board had no further questions. Bruner thanked the board and Oregon Youth Center representatives. OYS thanked the board for having them.

**Brusberg made a motion to approve minutes from October 9.** Gehrmann seconded. Motion carried. Groenier abstained.

**Clerk's report** – O&A delivery of building is set to start on October 27 and also Monday and Tuesday. Deputy Grumke is working on Friday and will help coordinate those days. We've notified the other businesses on Prosperity. Dane County Clerk is looking to purchase old Ale Asylum building in Madison to use for new county clerk office, city clerk office and storage for election equipment. They're asking for support from the municipalities. We received statement of assessment. Assessment ratio in Dane County is at .6809 and .6810 in Green County. This is the third year we're out of compliance, and we are scheduled for a revaluation in 2025. December 1 papers can be circulated for election in the spring. Olson, Podgorski and Gehrmann are up for reelection. Papers are due back first week of January. If anyone is interested in running, see the clerk's office. Spilde and Kuhlman are meeting with Mortensen and Groenier tomorrow about their plans for the business park. Northern Metal is still interested also.

**Public Works** – Olson reported well 1 has been pulled and they're waiting to do a camera inspection tomorrow or the next day. All hydrants were flushed and maintained. Water tower communication had a fail alarm on 10-7 and was repaired by LW Allen. RAS/WAS valves at sewer plant are being repaired or are repaired. N Kerch Street lift station upgrade, they are waiting on some valves, but pumps have been rebuilt. Cleaned the entire sewer main system, sewer jetting. Gehrmann asked if that's owned by Brooklyn. Olson said yes, we own our own. Insurance claim, we are waiting for the materials for the building. Brush grinding in dump has been done. Leaf pickup has started. Brusberg asked if it fits into public works to talk about the parking on N. Rutland. Olson said they will talk about it at their Public Works Committee and they will work with law enforcement about it. That's scheduled for next meeting.

**Towing policy** – Olson reported the reason is to allow Deputy Grumke to pick a tow service versus going through dispatch and then dispatch sends one out. Last winter we had tow trucks coming from Poynette to tow vehicles because it went through dispatch. Olson said also we are not to store towed vehicles. They will go to the tow company lot versus being stored at the village property. Gerhmann asked if we have one in mind. Olson said it will be any local, whoever is available. **Olson made a motion to adopt the towing policy for the Village of Brooklyn.** Podgorski seconded. Motion carried.

Gehrmann had a question on the grinding bill. Olson said that was the brush grinding at the dump. Gehrmann asked if it decomposes there. Olson said it sits but we have a place to take it. **Olson made a motion to approve the bills as presented.** Brusberg seconded. Motion carried.

**Senior Center** – Bruner said he and Kuhlman met with the Village of Oregon Administrator and Supervisor Phil Van Kampen to discuss funding for the senior center. They are asking for \$14,186 per year for the next five years, if we sign an agreement. We're responsible for zero capital costs. For \$5,000 less than we were planning on, we can sign the agreement. Brusberg asked if it covers Green County. Kuhlman said they can't do certain things in Green County. Bruner said after year five it's up for renegotiation. We don't have to sign after the five years. They're absorbing the capital costs. Gehrmann said it's guaranteed income for them for five years. Groenier said it's better because they won't come back every year and ask for more. He said it looks good to him. Kuhlman said Town of Dunn has okayed it already. Town of Rutland we don't know, and Town of Oregon is still looking and discussing it. If you look at the actual graph, they did include a 3% increase every year, but then averaged it out to get an equal amount every year. She would recommend still budgeting a little higher, so in five years we're not looking for a couple thousand dollars to put into the budget. Podgorski thinks it makes sense. Olson said he was trying to find the fine print, but couldn't find anything. Bruner said it was a good meeting. He feels good about this. Brusberg asked if they got a bigger grant than expected. Kuhlman said they took out admin costs and building expenses. Brusberg guesses at renewal it will be about \$17,000 in five years. Brusberg would like to see better coverage for Green County. He doesn't have a problem with the amount. Bruner said we can talk to Kathy Pennington and discuss with Green County. Berland asked if there could be a reciprocity agreement for the village. Brusberg suggested to float it to Pennington. **Brusberg made a motion to move forward with the Oregon Senior Center proposal where we would pay for the next five years roughly \$14,200.** Groenier seconded. Motion carried.

**Oregon Youth Center** – Brusberg asked how long we've paid \$1,500. Kuhlman said at least 8 years. Berland is all in on the \$2,000 considering how many students are going there from Brooklyn. Brusberg said he would double and go to \$3,000, which puts us at the 13% of municipal funding, which aligns with the Brooklyn attendance. Berland is very comfortable with that. His kids are excited about going. **Berland made a motion to increase the contribution to Oregon Youth Center from \$1,500 to \$3,000.** Podgorski seconded. Motion carried. Olson opposed.

**ETZ CSM for Mortensen** – Kuhlman explained these are parcels on the edge of the village's extraterritorial limits. They are splitting several parcels between family members. Olson said he had no objection. **Olson made a motion that there is no action on the CSM for Mortensen Road by the village.** Gehrmann seconded. Motion carried.

**Sewer rate review** – Kuhlman said what she gave to board was review from a few years ago when we updated the treatment plant. Strand can do a brief review for about \$1,000, and between \$5,000 and \$10,000 they can do a full review. Brusberg asked if the biggest factor are bonds and bond obligations. Kuhlman said maybe. Brusberg said looking at the debt schedule and when those would come out. Maybe that's the path to drive fees down. 2028 we have a \$1.6 million bond falling off and 2032 there's another falling off. Of the \$4.8 million, you will lose more than half over the 10 years. Gehrmann asked what would we have to do to keep it up. Olson said a lot of the plant is over 10 years old and sewer infrastructure is pretty old in town. About 75% of the system is 65-70 years old on the water side. Brusberg suggested maybe once a quarter or semi-annually, can Public Works start to tackle long-

term type planning; what we need from a feasibility study forward for the next 10 years. If we don't replace with other debt, maybe there's the ability to run down some fixed fees over time. Bruner said a lot of money at current plant is more reactive; if something breaks, etc. Brusberg suggested Public Works looking at it and then maybe bring it in to finance meeting. If we talk about it more regularly, we won't have problems down the road. Olson said Public Works will discuss and look at it, but they can't foresee what the DNR will require. The next step will be to remove PFAS out of the system. Brusberg asked what is the fixed portion based on, is it debt? Berland would be interested also. Kuhlman also made note of water. **Brusberg made a motion not to take any action for further sewer rate review but get a better idea of what portion of sewer rates are driven by debt service.** Podgorski seconded. Olson said they will discuss it at the next PW meeting. Motion carried.

**Gehrmann made a motion to accept the Insufficient Checks Fund Policy as presented.** Brusberg seconded. Motion carried.

Kuhlman stated the budget resolution is to transfer leftover funds from brush grinding to 2024. **Brusberg made a motion to adopt Resolution 2023-18 for the budget amendment.** Olson seconded. Motion carried.

**Sprint agreement** – Kuhlman stated Sprint came back with a suggestion to delete paragraph 5 and they added a permit threshold of \$1,500 before they have to pay. Berland and Brusberg think paragraphs 4 and 5 are different. Berland would like keep to paragraph 5 and strike the \$1,500. **Berland made a motion to propose the revised contract striking the \$1,500 added to paragraph 4 and reinstating paragraph 5 to be sent back to Sprint Spectrum Realty Company.** Brusberg seconded. Motion carried.

**Nothing on village hall remodeling. 2024 budgets** – Kuhlman set the public hearing on the budget for November 13. It will be at 6:30 at the start of the meeting. We are balanced right now. She will make the change to the youth center and take it from the senior center. We might not have the TID budgets yet, because we won't have all the information for the TID increments yet. Brusberg asked about the mill rate for 2022. Kuhlman said it was \$8.56 for Dane and \$8.58 for Green. Brusberg said we are going down to roughly \$8.16. Berland asked what mill rate is. Bruner explained it is the amount per 1000 of assessed value of your house. We get an itemized mill rate from all entities like the county and school districts. Kuhlman said our mill rate is the amount that we levy, which is the amount we're given by the state, our debt levy and the increase from fire/ems. Right now our levy is \$925,263. Next year will change for Green County, because we're closing TID 1. Brusberg asked to include the graphs again this year and show the changes in mill rate differences.

**Planning & Zoning Commission** – 106/108 Hotel Street was discussed. Owner was invited to meeting but didn't show. Bruner said they recommended an inspection. Brusberg brought up talking to One Community Bank. Groenier does their commercial stuff. He can ask his dad to ask.

**Fire/EMS District Commission** – Brusberg said they had a meeting last week. They approved the EMS budget with some adjustments. There was no change in the total but they shifted line items. They will look at it after year-end financials. They are spending more with WRS contributions which helps drive people serving but comes at a cost. They want to look at LTE and volunteer hours. One piece was the UW medical director needed to be pieced into the budget. Their billing is on a fiscal year basis. They received payment from the Luke Bryan Farm Tour. 100% was paid as far as the concert. They were thorough with paperwork to the farm tour and quickly paid. They are taking funds and paying other agencies. UW brought in six doctors for their medical area. Gehrmann asked if there was an attendance number. Brusberg said it was sold out for 20,000 people. There was talk about cell phone network crashed, so it's on the radar. Berland said they can talk to US Cellular to put up a repeater. Bruner said it's possible for next year or year after. It helps that it sold out and Podgorski thinks it was the only one sold out. Brusberg said they're looking at bylaws; specifically trying to define active membership. Commission will do a review at the November meeting. An EMS captain spot is being filled by Brock Padley. The CD value is \$54,370 which excludes interest of roughly \$1,500. They rolled \$50,000 of balance into new CD at a rate of 5% to drive further interest into next year. Of the remaining \$5,870; \$100 contribution to retirees, and \$2500 into a memorial

fund and remaining access will sit in a balance to provide SAP contributions, and see if we can do anytime throughout the course of the year if meet hourly contribution. Active personnel, if they serve additional hours, they'll get another \$200 if they meet that qualification. EMS report: per Lifeline the 2024 chassis was reordered. Hoping that with the strike maybe in late 2024 or early 2025 we will get this. We did a prepayment so it satisfied the flex grant and the unallocated will be for the remainder. Gehrman asked once we get the chassis, how long to outfit it. Brusberg had no idea. The FAP process is open, which is a grant they've gotten in the past.

**Recreation committee** – Groenier stated no big updates. They will do food trucks again next year. Craft fair went well. Recreation is not doing movie nights the rest of the season. All classes are doing good. One concern is with the tree lighting event. The outlet next to the tree has not been repaired. Kuhlman said Public Works Committee made a motion in January it wasn't going to be fixed. Part of the reason was it is getting too tall to decorate. Kuhlman had conversations with members about doing something different. Olson said the wiring is outdated in the community building and there's a lot of upgrades to make this work, and it would cost a significant amount to make the repair. Brusberg asked if it's possible to do something at village hall. Olson said to talk to recreation and see what they want to do. Brusberg said the Oregon Youth Center is offering volunteers. Brusberg asked if we're still going to do movie nights. Kuhlman said she and deputy clerk are planning on doing some movie afternoons and nights through the end of the year. **Olson made a motion to approve recreation minutes from February 13, 2023.** Groenier seconded. **Groenier made a motion to approve recreation minutes from May 8.** Olson seconded. Motion carried.

**Podgorski made a motion at 7:59 p.m. to adjourn.** Groenier seconded. Motion carried.

Linda Kuhlman, WCMC, CMTW  
Clerk-Treasurer

# December

2023

| Sunday                                                                        | Monday                                                       | Tuesday                                            | Wednesday                                           | Thursday                                             | Friday                                                 | Saturday                                                   |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                               |                                                              |                                                    |                                                     |                                                      | 1                                                      | 2<br>Santa Day<br>11a-1p<br>Methodist<br>Church            |
| 3                                                                             | 4<br>PIYO 6p                                                 | 5<br><b>Tires**, Oil &amp;<br/>Battery Pick up</b> | 6<br><b>Garbage &amp;<br/>Recycling</b><br>Yoga 6p  | 7<br>Bookmobile –<br>Gazebo 6-730p                   | 8                                                      | 9                                                          |
| 10                                                                            | 11<br><b>Village Board<br/>Mtg 630p</b><br>PIYO 6p           | 12<br><b>PZ Mtg 6pm</b>                            | 13<br><b>Garbage</b><br>Yoga 6p                     | 14<br>Bookmobile-<br>Gazebo 6-730p                   | 15                                                     | 16                                                         |
| 17<br>Double Feature<br>Brooklyn Free<br>Movies at<br>Community Bldg<br>@ 1pm | 18<br>PIYO 6p                                                | 19                                                 | 20<br><b>Garbage &amp;<br/>Recycling</b><br>Yoga 6p | 21<br>Bookmobile-<br>Gazebo 6-730p                   | 22                                                     | 23                                                         |
| 24                                                                            | 25<br><b>Clerk's &amp; Public<br/>Work's Dept<br/>Closed</b> | 26                                                 | 27<br>Yoga 6p                                       | 28<br><b>Garbage</b><br>Bookmobile-<br>Gazebo 6-730p | 29                                                     | 30                                                         |
| 31                                                                            |                                                              |                                                    |                                                     |                                                      | Exercise Classes<br>held at Brooklyn<br>Community Bldg | **\$ 10/Tire<br>Contact Clerk's<br>Office 608-455-<br>4201 |