

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

## December 2023 Village News

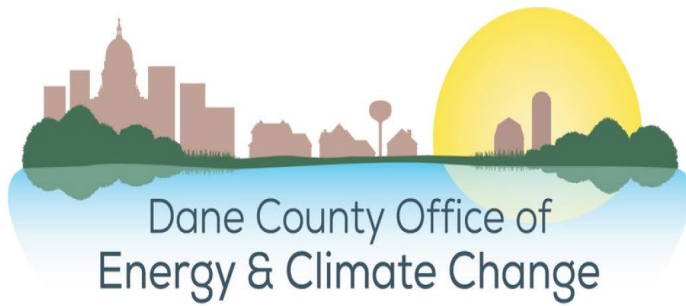
Clerk's Office - 455-4201  
Fax - 455-1385  
PO Box 189, 210 Commercial St  
Email: [clerk@brooklynwi.gov](mailto:clerk@brooklynwi.gov)

Police Department – 608-255-2345  
102 N. Rutland Avenue  
Email: [grumke.merrick@danesherriff.com](mailto:grumke.merrick@danesherriff.com)

Public Works Dept. - 455-1842  
Fax - 455-1501  
102 Windy Lane  
Email: [publicworks@brooklynwi.gov](mailto:publicworks@brooklynwi.gov)



**The Clerk's Office & Public Works Department  
will be closed on Mon., Dec. 25 and  
Mon., Jan. 1, 2024.**



# Your Input Matters!

Sign up for updates from Focus on the Home Energy Rebate planning process so you provide input on the rebate program launching in 2024.



Sign up at: [focusonenergy.com/home-energy-rebates#faq](https://focusonenergy.com/home-energy-rebates#faq)

## Accurate Appraisal LLC – Educational Corner

With tax season right around the corner, we wanted to breakdown and show the difference between your assessment value and your taxes.

Whether your property assessment increases or decreases, the Mill Rate in your municipality is affected by tax budgets and the total assessed value of your community. As long as your assessment change is close to the community average, your taxes generally stay about the same.

Assessors set fair and equitable values, we do not collect taxes.

# ASSESSMENTS VS TAXES

If your home's assessment changes with the average municipal value change, your taxes will remain about the same.

Year	2020	2021	2022
<b>Assessment</b>	<b>\$200,000</b>	<b>\$170,000</b>	<b>\$255,000</b>
Home Value Change	0%	-5%	34%
Municipal Value Change	0%	-17%	55%
Mill Rate	17	20	13
<b>Taxes</b>	<b>\$3,333</b>	<b>\$3,800</b>	<b>\$3,400</b>

EXAMPLE ONLY. Based on a 10 million dollar annual budget.

**In 2021** the home's assessment value decreased. However the **total municipal value decreased by a higher percentage** which increased mill rate **which increased the taxes.**

**In 2022** the home's **assessment increased at lower rate than the total municipal value.** This decreased the mill rate **which decreased the taxes.**



# TAX COLLECTION 2023 PAYABLE 2024

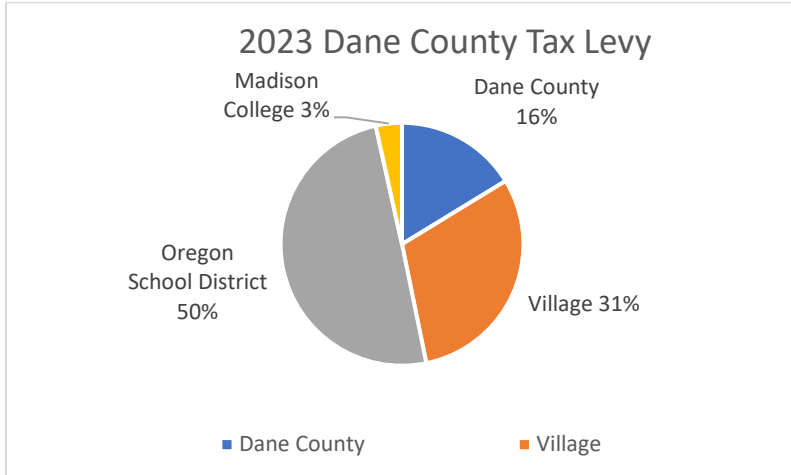
You should have received or will receive this week your 2023 real estate/personal property tax bill (s) payable 2024. If you mail your tax payment and **would like a receipt, please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope**. A December 31st postmark will be received as a 2023 payment. If you prefer to pay in person, bring your tax bill so that we can stamp it paid. You are able to log on to each county's website and get tax info/receipts throughout the year. The websites are:

Green: <https://ascent.greencountywi.org/LandRecords/PropertyListing/RealEstateTaxParcel#/Search>

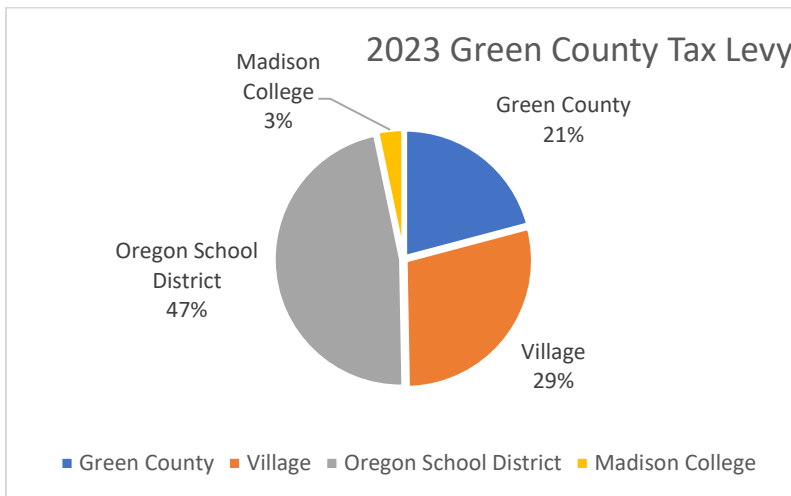
Dane: [AccessDane@co.dane.wi.us](mailto:AccessDane@co.dane.wi.us); then search for name, address or parcel number. This is very helpful for those that need copies during income tax filing time.

Our office hours are 7 a.m. noon and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Monday – Friday, with the exception of December 25 and January 1. We will not be open any Saturdays for tax collection. **Tax payments are due in our office by 5:00 p.m. January 31. Tax payments received in our office after that have to be turned over to the county. Tax payments postmarked on or before January 31 will be marked as received on time. The Village will not receive their portion of funds received after January 31 from the county until August. Timely payment received in the Clerk's Office helps the Village's cash flow.**

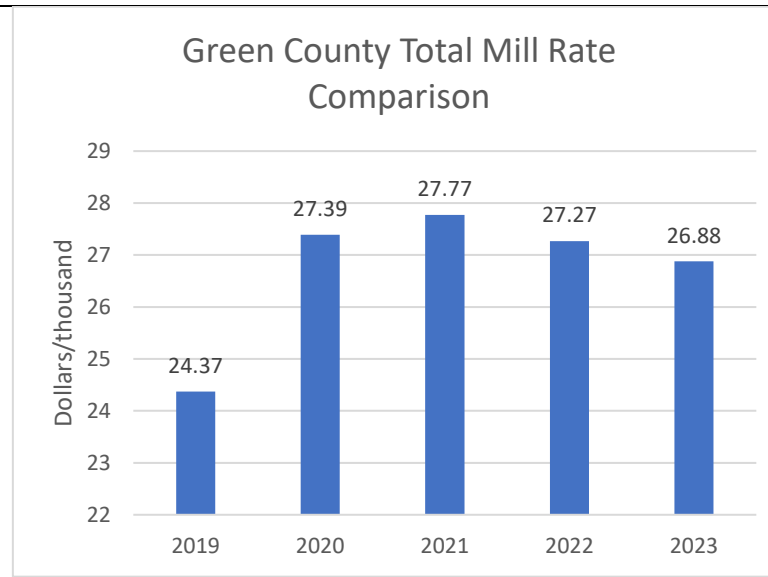
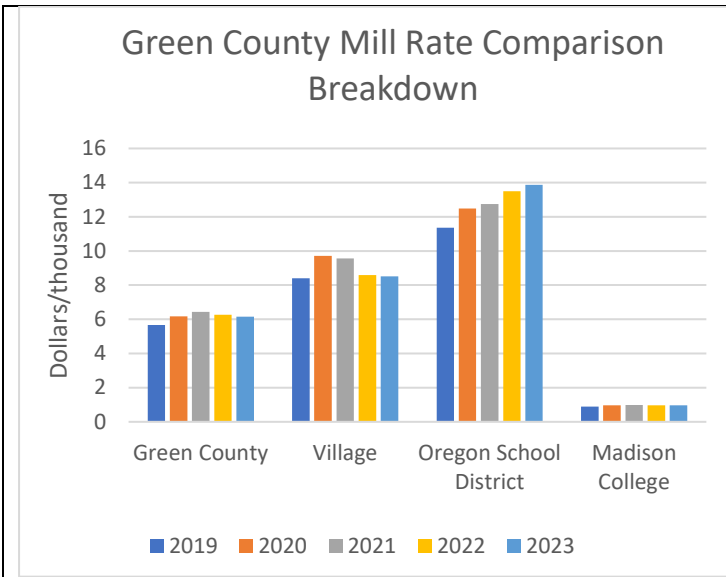
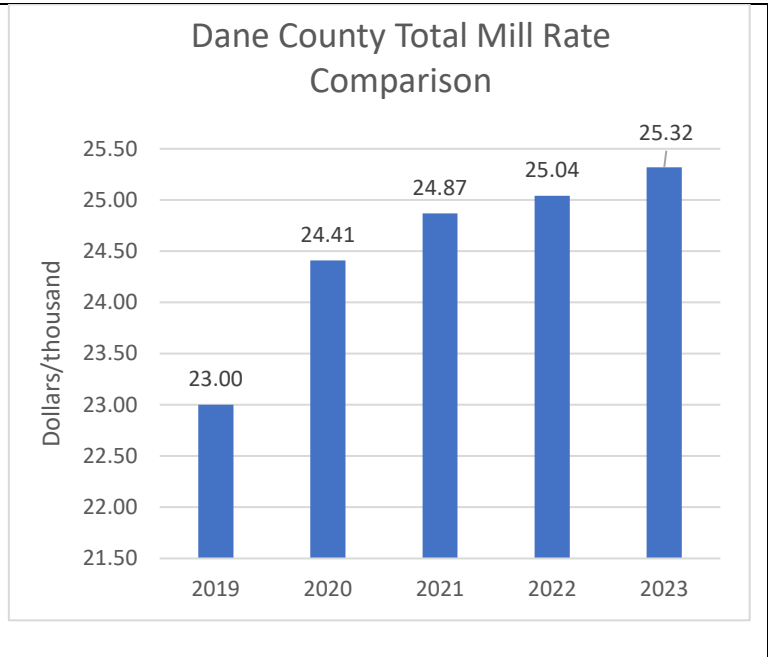
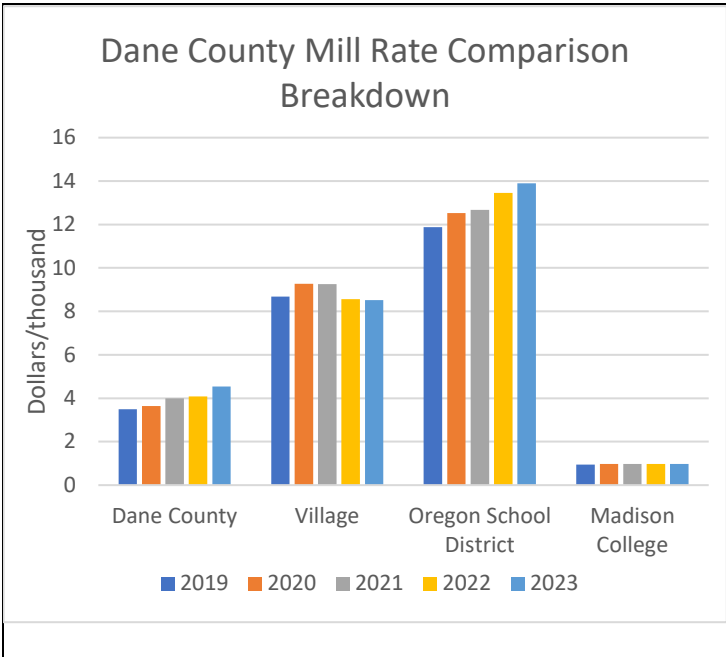
The Village's mill rate is \$8.52 (decrease of 6 cents) in Green County and \$8.52 (decrease of 4 cents) in Dane County. The net combined rate for Green County is \$26.88/\$1000 (decrease of 37 cents) and Dane County is \$25.32/\$1000 (increase of 28 cents) of assessed value. The First Dollar credit for this year is \$85.14 and lottery credit is \$316.91.



2023 DANE COUNTY TAX LEVY	
MADISON COLLEGE	\$ 81,964
OREGON SCHOOL DIST	\$1,171,687
DANE COUNTY	\$ 383,269
VILLAGE	\$ 718,886



2023 GREEN COUNTY TAX LEVY	
MADISON COLLEGE	\$ 28,552
OREGON SCHOOL DIST	\$408,156
GREEN COUNTY	\$181,259
VILLAGE	\$250,453



**DID YOU RECEIVE YOUR LOTTERY CREDIT?**

1. You must own your home in Wisconsin  
AND
2. You must have occupied that home as your primary residence on January 1, 2022.
  - a. A primary residence is the home in which a property owner lives for more than six (6) months of the year.
  - b. If temporarily away, a primary residence is the home to which the owner returns. If you feel that you qualify for the credit, and there is not a Lottery Credit on your tax bill, contact our office for a claim form before January 30th. You may also print a form from the Wisconsin Department of Revenue website at: [www.dor.state.wi.us](http://www.dor.state.wi.us).

It is your responsibility to notify the County Treasurer within 30 days if the property no longer qualifies for the Lottery Credit.

**DOG & CAT LICENSES (Paid by separate check from taxes)**

All dogs and cats five months and older, kept within the Village, must be licensed each year by January 31st. License fees for 2024 are as follows:

DANE: \$22 for unaltered dog  
\$17 for spayed/neutered dog  
\$5 for cats

GREEN: \$17 for unaltered dog  
\$12 for spayed/neutered dog  
\$5 for cats

You will need to bring proof of current rabies vaccination. Village Ordinance Chapter 6-5 states it is unlawful for any person to keep or harbor more than 3 dogs or 3 cats over ten weeks of age within the Village. "Person" is defined to include collectively all persons residing within a residence.

**NOTE: Tax payments need to be separate from other payments to the Village, i.e., dog and cat licenses, utility payments. Also if you have property located in both counties, separate checks are required.**

**Pay your tax bill or utility bill online with your credit card, using the Payment Tab on the Home page of the website, then click on Official Payments or GovPayNet. There is a fee from both companies for this service.**

Check out the Village website at [www.brooklynwi.gov](http://www.brooklynwi.gov) underneath the Budget page for the 2024 budget, or stop in the clerk's office to view a copy.

Call us at 455-4201, ext. 1 or 2, if you have questions.  
It is a pleasure to serve the residents of this community.

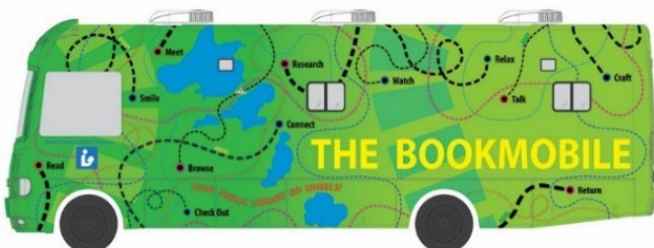
**HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM THE  
VILLAGE BOARD AND VILLAGE EMPLOYEES**



## Holiday Tree Recycling

Remove all decorations, lights, nails, stands and plastic bags. Place at the curb for pick up.

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).



# Get Fit Class Schedule

Monday - 6:00pm  
PIYO

Wednesday night - 6:00pm  
Yoga Slow Flow



## COMMUNITY POTLUCK

Thursday, January 25, 2024

At Noon

Brooklyn Methodist Church

Everyone - all ages are welcome.

Bring a dish to pass.

Table service and beverages are provided.



## CHRISTMAS CHURCH TOUR 2023

DECEMBER 30<sup>th</sup> 1 – 4 pm

Celebrate the gift of Jesus by visiting these area churches, and how they adorn their congregation with their praise and worship of the Christ child coming into our world.

**Albany United Methodist** - 500 Park St.

**St. Francis Of Assisi Catholic** – S. Harrison St.- Belleville

**Brooklyn Community United Methodist** – 201 Church St.

**Magnolia Advent** – 14267 W. Cty. Road A - Evansville

**Faith Lutheran** – 143 Washington St. – Oregon

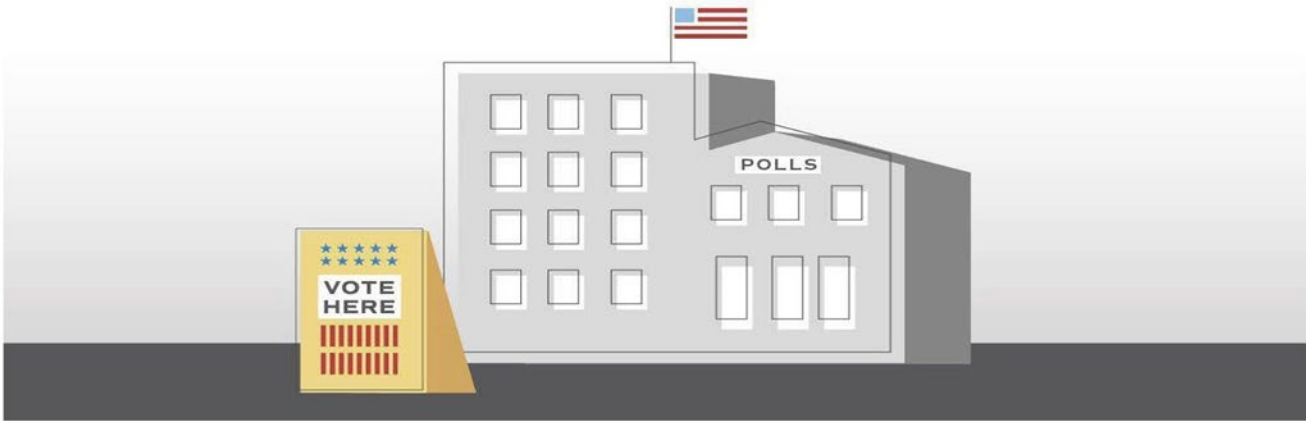
**Holy Mother Of Consolation Catholic** - 651 N. Main St. – Oregon

**Peoples United Methodist** – 103 N. Alpine St. - Oregon

**LakeView Church** – 2200 Lincoln Ave. – Stoughton



**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

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### **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.

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# December 2023 News from Your Senior Center

By Rachel Brickner

The hustle and bustle of December is upon us, and the staff at the Senior Center hopes you all find moments of peace and joy during this busy season. As always, the staff is available to help local older adults and their families with any challenges that they may face, free of charge.

Just because the holidays are here does not mean people stop falling, or that money problems get easier, or that symptoms of dementia disappear. If anything, the holidays can make all those problems worse.

December is one of the three months of the year in which older adults in Wisconsin are most likely to fall (and Wisconsin does continue to lead the nation in the number of older adults who die as a result of falling). There are probably a number of contributing factors making December so dangerous. Winter weather can make surfaces slick—but most falls happen indoors. Alcohol is a significant factor in falls, and holiday gatherings in Wisconsin often include alcohol.

You can reduce your risk of falling by taking exercise classes at the Senior Center, or even a multi-week class that has been proven to reduce participants' risk of falling. That class is called Stepping On, and it will be offered in the new year. If you would like more information about it, please call Anne at 608-835-5801.

Senior Center case managers can work with older adults to help make sure they are making their money stretch as far as possible. Case managers can help determine whether people are qualified for various benefits, including help paying the premiums for the insurance that covers the cost of medications.

The case managers are aware of a number of resources that people who are struggling financially can benefit from. Please reach out to Carol or Noriko at 608-835-5801 if you would like to talk with a case manager about finances.

The holidays can be difficult for people who may have some symptoms of dementia. Routines are often a bit off kilter around the holidays, which can prove challenging for a person with some degree of dementia. Case managers also have ideas for reducing the disorientation that can result from the upheaval the holidays bring, even if the stressors involved are good ones.

While December can be a time of joy and reunion, it can also be a time of stress. We hope you find happiness and peace, and that you call the Senior Center if we can be of help to you.

Brooklyn Fire & EMS would like to Thank you all for coming out to see our Holiday Light Parade. We enjoy putting decorations on our trucks and escorting Santa around to see all the smiling faces.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM BROOKLYN FIRE & EMS!





**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

2024 REFUSE AND RECYCLING

# Collection Calendar

## Wednesdays

Your area will be picked up on non-holiday Wednesdays. Refuse will be collected weekly. Recycling will be collected every other week.



Refuse Pick-up Only.

Recycling and Refuse Pick-up.

For scheduling the pick-up of items too large to fit into your cart, please call Pellitteri Waste Systems at (608) 257-4285, or visit [www.pellitteri.com](http://www.pellitteri.com) to contact us via email.

JANUARY '24						
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FEBRUARY '24						
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APRIL '24						
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MAY '24						
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DECEMBER '24						
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29	30	31				

THE MATERIALS USED IN THIS PAPER NEVER ENDED UP IN A LANDFILL. YOU CAN HELP CONTINUE THE CYCLE. FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT PELLITTERI.COM

Please see reverse side for the updated recycling list. To sign up for email alerts regarding service changes, please email [info@pellitteri.com](mailto:info@pellitteri.com).

LOYALTY DISCOUNT

# \$ 20 OFF!

Expires 1/1/2025. Not valid with any other discounts, coupons or promotions.

a temporary dumpster

FOR — clean ups, small remodeling, bulky items, big jobs, roofing, remodeling, etc.

# Residential

## COLLECTION INFORMATION

RECYCLING *Information* – All recyclables should be placed in your recycling cart

### EXPANDED *Paper* RECYCLING

- Cardboard (empty)
- Catalogs, magazines & phone books
- Cereal & cracker boxes (empty)
- Computer & office paper
- Envelopes & junk mail
- Holiday gift wrapping paper (no foils)
- Newspapers
- Paper cups (no plastic lids or straws)
- Paper egg cartons
- Paper grocery bags
- Paper milk and juice cartons or boxes
- Pizza boxes (no food or grease)
- Shredded paper (place in clear or transparent plastic bag and tie shut; a full bag should be the size of a basketball)

### RECYCLABLE *Plastic & Glass*

- All plastic bottles (no motor oils or gasoline)
- Plastic containers/cups #1-7
- Glass bottles & jars (clear, blue, brown or green translucent glass)

### RECYCLABLE *Metal*

- Aerosol cans (empty)
- Aluminum cans & aluminum pie plates
- Metal pots & pans
- Small metal appliances (toasters, blenders, etc.) – nothing larger than a basketball
- Small metal plumbing fixtures, faucets, valves
- Tin & steel cans

### NON-RECYCLABLE *Items:*

- **Batteries** (fire hazard – check [call2recycle.org](http://call2recycle.org))
- Brake rotors / drums
- Construction waste
- Electronics
- Frozen food or microwave dinner plates
- Glassware & ceramics
- Metal items heavier than 10 pounds
- Mirrors & windows
- Motor oil & gasoline containers
- Plastic film, wrap & Styrofoam
- **Propane tanks** (fire hazard – check [earth911.com](http://earth911.com))
- Recyclable containers containing liquids or food
- Misc.: Carpet, clothing, diapers, fishing line, food, hoses, ropes & shoes

### RECYCLING *Tips*

- Containers containing food or liquids, construction waste or electronics CANNOT be placed in the recycling cart.
- Should you choose to bag recyclables you place into the cart, please use clear or transparent bags and leave open – do not tie or seal. Clear bags can be purchased at most grocery and hardware stores.
- Do not flatten or crush plastic or metal items. Do not place smaller items inside larger containers. All items should be loose and empty. Remove all food waste, plastic, Styrofoam and packing peanuts.
- Flatten cardboard boxes and cereal boxes to make room in the recycling cart. The lid on your cart should shut.
- Your recycling cart will not be picked up if it contains trash, yard waste or prohibited items, or if overloaded. Check out [www.pellitteri.com](http://www.pellitteri.com) for dozens of 1-minute [recycling tip videos](#), a 7-minute video showing [what happens to your recyclables](#), and a [Recycle Right Search Tool](#) to verify if items are recyclable.
- Download the "Pellitteri Waste Systems" [mobile app](#) for pickup day reminders and Recycle Right Search Tool.

## 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.

**Brooklyn Village Board Meeting Minutes**  
**November 13, 2023**

The November 13, 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 Chris Groenier. Trustee Janeen Podgorski was absent. Also present was Clerk-Treasurer Linda Kuhlman and Deputy Merrick Grumke (portion of meeting). Pledge of Allegiance.

**Bruner convened the public hearing at 6:30 p.m. on the 2024 budgets.** No written comments. No citizens present. **Berland made a motion at 6:31 p.m. to close public hearing.** Groenier seconded. Motion carried.

There were no public comments. **President's report** – Bruner would like to express his sincere gratitude to those who are serving or have served our country. Happy Veterans Day and thank you for your service.

**Brusberg made a motion to approve minutes of October 23.** Berland seconded. Motion carried.

**Clerk's report** – Kuhlman reported financials were handed out. At the end of October there was \$206,381.76 in deposits, which includes a \$1,242.55 tax payment that came in from a closing. There was \$188,659.67 in withdrawals, which included debt payments of \$29,961.06. That leaves a total at the end of October of \$2,407,286.37 in all accounts. At the last meeting we talked about sewer rates. Kuhlman spoke with Anderson at Strand, and he said that the debt service is about 56% of the base charges, but it's an oversimplification to say that if all the debt went away, you'd be able to reduce base charges by 56%. They would have to do a review if debt reduced a lot. We received an email from Oregon Village Board that they approved the Senior Center budget. They reached an agreement with Town of Oregon. We should have the agreement by the end of the month. We received a letter from Municipal Code Enforcement, which is a company that goes through municipalities and looks for code violations. She will keep the letter on file. Council on Aging will have a meeting on Thursday. McCallum is not available to attend. Green County Courthouse is having a rededication ceremony. They finished the outside restoration of the courthouse. Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>, they are having a ribbon cutting ceremony at 1 p.m. and will have refreshments until 4 p.m. The list of dumpster days breakdown is included in the packet. We didn't get a metal credit in the fall. Pellitteri said there was trash in the dumpster, but Kuhlman checked with Olson and PW and both said it's the same as always. She contacted Pellitteri, and they will look into the matter. Brusberg asked if we're happy with the service from Pellitteri. Kuhlman said we have a few complaints, but nothing major. They are good about responding to any problems. Olson said they will start to take photos of the metal dumpsters from now on. O&A's building was delivered and there were no problems. Dane County passed the purchase of the old Ale Asylum building for their offices. Public Works will be cutting up a tree today, putting up Christmas decorations this week, doing final leaf pickup and the street cleaner comes through this week.

**Groenier made a motion to approve bills as presented.** Brusberg seconded. Olson reviewed as well. Motion carried. **Bobcat brush mower** – Kuhlman said we've talked about this in the past because of the new stormwater ponds we will have in Business Park. We have a quote and we're thinking of using ARPA funds. Gehrmann asked if we outsource it now. Olson said we have rented in the past. Berland asked if this is a reasonable price. Bruner confirmed it is. Olson said they can look at rotating it out every couple of years, depending on how much use it gets. The bid is through Bobcat and that's who we deal with. **Berland made a motion to purchase the brush mower for \$9,988.17 using available ARPA funds.** Olson seconded. Motion carried. Brusberg asked when ARPA funds have to be used. Kuhlman said they need to be obligated by end of next year and spent by end of 2026.

**TID 2 land expansion** – Kuhlman said she and Spilde met with Jeff Groenier and Mark Mortensen. In the discussions we talked about expanding the boundaries of the TID to include the next south 15 acres. Part of the reasoning is All Color will need to purchase the 4 acres to the south of what they want for stormwater, and they are now suggesting a building also, which would give us added TID increment. They would put that in at the beginning of their building process. O&A has the right of first refusal for the part south of them, and we don't know how soon they would build that. We also have a couple acres to the south of Northern Metal that is buildable also. Kuhlman gave the

board a list of things to consider. We'd want to wait until after January 1 to purchase, to keep the same low base value, and wait to purchase after the boundary expansion so we can include any purchase of land in the TID expenses. It will take about 60 days to do the TID expansion. All Color will be putting in a sewer and water line north-south for their property, and they discussed putting in a water line along Highway 92, and there will need to be discussion about paying that back through TID increment, and Ehlers suggested paying back yearly. They would like to change the boundary slightly of the parcel to the south to make it even with the circle. Brusberg asked if they want us to purchase all of the 15. Kuhlman said no, just the 4 acres. Kuhlman will meet with Terry and Dawn George tomorrow about purchasing and give them an update. Bruner asked if it all needs to be put in the TID. He would like to put only the 4 some acres into TID 2. Brusberg said he'd like to see a formal offer for the land and a commitment to purchase the additional 4 some acres. Kuhlman suggested not waiting for the offer before making the TID expansion. One question left is if it needs to be in the Urban Service Area to be in the TID. She doesn't think it does, but it will need to be before anyone can build. She will talk to Strand about making that a priority. Brusberg said we wouldn't have to do more borrowing because we have land sales. Kuhlman said a decision doesn't need to be done tonight but should be made by the end of the month so we can get going with the expansion. Brusberg said based on our agreement, the price for the next 15 acres is \$33,119 per acre today based on inflation. He asked if we can get an offer in kind before the end of the first quarter. Gehrmann and Bruner agreed. Groenier said it's moving forward. Kuhlman agreed they've been doing a lot of design work. Brusberg said if we go through with this, we should make O&A aware of what's going on; to have a good partnership. Kuhlman said the question is whether any or all should go into the current TID 2. She believes it will help, especially if they put in a building quickly. Gehrmann asked what the downside is if the economy tanks. Kuhlman said the worst case is that whatever is left owing at the close of the TID, the village is responsible for. Discussion on expanding the TID boundary. Brusberg is fine with moving forward with the 4 acres that they want. Bruner would like to leave the rest for TID 3. Discussion on land to include in TID 2. **Olson made a motion to postpone action on TID 2 land expansion until November 27.** Groenier seconded.

**Capital budget/camera** – Kuhlman said she just wanted to hand out the capital budget to be looked at before the December meeting and also the camera quotes from Verkada. Verkada reached out to us about quoting a camera system, so we had them do it. We also spoke with Convergint, but we haven't received anything from them yet. The difference between these companies and Ring is these are hardwired into internet. Brusberg said Ring offers multiple sensors and cameras and keypads for \$1,000 and about \$200 per year for cloud-based storage and they run on wifi. It's easy to install. Bruner asked how well they would hold up in a commercial setting. Brusberg said they do have a commercial solution. Kuhlman said we would have to get some kind of setup for Ring with wifi outside. Gehrmann has worked with Fearings before, and they know what they're doing. Berland said Verkada is highly reputable. Gehrmann would like to take the information and figure out what we want to see and request quotes. Board talked about doing an RFP and what to include in the RFP. Bruner asked why on the water towers and wells and public works. Kuhlman said it has been discussed in some meetings that Spilde has gone to that it's being suggested because of attacks on water sources, etc. We will have to get wifi service at the wells. Gehrmann asked if a Ring doorbell would work short-term at Village Hall. Groenier asked if the point of having the cameras on water sources is to see license plates. Bruner said we would want high resolution. Kuhlman said this is just information for the board to consider. Brusberg said we should do an RFP at this point. Kuhlman said to look at the capital budget, and we'll do more in depth in December. Brusberg asked about the patrol truck. Olson said they're still looking for one. There is one that we might see next year. They will put it the capital budget discussion.

**Brusberg made a motion to approve Tree City USA application.** Gehrmann seconded. Motion carried.

**Broadband update** – Podgorski was absent but asked to tell the board that the only municipality included in the Frontier grant was Town of Exeter. Frontier decided to submit to upgrade fiber lines from the Belleville exchange to the Town of Exeter only. The grant application for the Town of Exeter was submitted and accepted.

**Village Hall remodeling** – Kuhlman, Vicki Olson and Spilde put together a list of everything that should or could be done at Village Hall. She's waiting for GEC to get us information. Strand's lowest price was \$11,000 to put together a plan and documents. Do we want to put out an RFP for everything on the list or just piecemeal items. We will



need to bid out for HVAC. Olson said RFP the HVAC, and the other smaller stuff, piecemeal it out. Berland asked about electrical or does it depend on how extensive. Olson said we can get help from Focus on Energy for the lighting. Discussion on needing a set of as-built plans and plans for what we want to do. Board discussed having Jeff Groenier do plans. Berland suggested having a contract or quote in place before doing the work. Discussion on bidding. Bruner said we need to get a set of plans and then meet with committee and outline the changes we want to make. Brusberg said we only have \$37,000 on hand. Kuhlman said we will probably have to borrow funds to do the project. **Brusberg made a motion to have Jeff Groenier do a drawing of the as-built plans of village hall.** Berland seconded. Motion carried.

**Berland made a motion to accept the agreement with Sprint with the tenant-submitted additional language.** Brusberg seconded. Motion carried.

**Budget** – Kuhlman said the only changes since last meeting is \$1,500 was moved from Senior Center and into the Youth Center. Brusberg asked if police protection is full-time plus 20 hours of overtime. Kuhlman said yes, and since we've started, the hours have been filled within about 20 minutes of the schedule being posted. We have all the budgets done except the TIDs, because we need county levies before we can approve those increments. Our levy is \$923,297, which includes the levy, the debt of \$194,318 and the fire/EMS increase. **Brusberg made a motion to approve the 2024 budgets with the exception of the TIDs.** Berland seconded. Motion carried. **Brusberg made a motion to approve the 2023 levy limit worksheet.** Berland seconded. Motion carried. **Berland made a motion to adopt resolution 2023-19.** Brusberg seconded. Motion carried. Kuhlman also added in Dane County our levy went down 3 cents, the Oregon School District went up 47 cents and Madison College stayed about the same. In Green County, our levy went down 7 cents, Oregon School District increased 38 cents and Madison College was about the same. Brusberg asked if we would have graphs this year. Kuhlman said yes.

**Groenier made a motion at 7:48 p.m. to convene into closed session.** Brusberg seconded. Ayes – Groenier, Berland, Olson, Bruner, Gehrmann, Brusberg. Noes – none. **Groenier made a motion at 7:52 p.m. to convene out of closed session.** Berland seconded. Ayes – Groenier, Berland, Olson, Bruner, Gehrmann, Brusberg. Noes – none. **Berland made a motion to accept the counteroffer of \$3,000 for the easement.** Groenier seconded. Motion carried.

**Olson made a motion at 7:53 p.m. to adjourn.** Groenier seconded. Motion carried.

Linda Kuhlman, WCMC, CMTW, Clerk-Treasurer

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**Brooklyn Village Board Meeting Minutes  
November 27, 2023**

The November 27, 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 was Jessica Bahr from Alliant Energy/Wisconsin Power and Light, Green County Supervisor and Town of Brooklyn Chair Kathy Pennington, Jon Solan from Strand, Leif Spilde Public Works Director, Clerk-Treasurer Linda Kuhlman. Pledge of Allegiance.

**WP&L/Alliant – Jessica Bahr** – They are going to be rebuilding and expanding the substation north of the village. They need a new CSM, and the village has extra-territorial rights. They're purchasing 1.5 acres from Klahns. She had documents with a rough aerial picture and draft CSM. They have received conditional approval from Dane County. Driveway will be moved approximately 120 feet to the north, and the substation positioned at the back half of the property they're purchasing. Bruner asked about increase in capacity. Bahr said they're trying to give more reliable power. The Village has a high outage rate for Alliant, and as part of the upgrade they will have better equipment and better service. That's one of the goals. Gehrmann asked how long this project has been in the

works. Bahr said construction is planned for late next year, and she's been working since the beginning of this year, and it was in planning a few years before that, so 4-5 years from start to completion. Brusberg asked if there would be potential for service interruption during that time. Bahr said there could be, but they will let us know if that needs to happen. Podgorski asked if this is part of a 20-30 year plan. Bahr doesn't have a number, but the current has been in service since the late 1980s. It's a small site compared to what they're purchasing now. Spilde asked if the old one will go away. Bahr said yes, the small one will be gone but they'll keep the fencing. Kuhlman stated the board can stand with the prior motion that the village had no objections to this project.

**Supervisor Kathy Pennington** – She wanted to give the annual update from the Green County. Taxes for 2024 - the county tax levy is \$23.5 million. They've applied sales tax and some undesignated general funds, so the net levy for Green County is \$19,148,861, which is 1% increase from last year. That accounts for a payroll increase and benefits. The operational budget remains flat. Mill rate is a little lower this year at \$4.06 compared to last year \$4.51 per 1000 of equalized value. The equalized value for the village went up 9%, which is a slight increase over last year. It was 8.57%. Both of them are still lower than the counties. The county's equalized value is almost 13% for 2024. It was close to 18% last year. She's expecting the village residents of Green County will see a small decrease in Green County taxes. Wheel tax is going up \$5, up to \$25. It's used to assist the highway department paving the roads, as their budget remains flat. They maintain 300 miles of roads. They apply for as many grants as possible. One of her concerns is they have outdated and small buildings. They've outgrown their space, so she's anticipating more discussion on new or expanding buildings, which could impact taxes. The IT Committee completed their broadband strategic plan and is using ARPA funds to fill a broadband coordinator position. It will identify areas of needs, building relationships with ISPs and municipalities and developing partnerships to apply for grants to develop broadband in the county. Broadband is a slow and painful process. She's chair of the committee and it's her personal agenda at the town. She hopes to get it done. The historical courthouse is now completed and looks beautiful. The rededication is Saturday, December 2. Pleasant View Nursing Home will have a referendum on the ballot at the end of the year to continue with their referendum funding for the next five years. She will be running again as Green County Supervisor and so is asking for your votes. She asked if there were any questions or if she could assist the village somehow. Gehrman asked about the senior center and getting service from Green County and if there is a more seamless way to meet those needs. Pennington doesn't know but she can look at that. She asked if we're looking for them to go to Oregon. Berland said there are only limited services Green County citizens can get. Podgorski said only service from Oregon Senior Center is meals on wheels, so any case management, ride share can only be from Green County. Bruner asked if there's any possibility of reciprocity. Pennington will find out who to talk to about reciprocity. Board thanked her for coming.

Jon Solan from Strand gave a presentation on Hotel Street design. There were some funds pertaining to Hotel Street that need to be used by the end of this calendar year from the TID. Strand wanted to evaluate from a 2D standpoint and get an idea of the needs and potential improvements and benefits. It's the last concrete roadway in the village. It's seen its share of patches and is well past its lifespan. They did a survey and took pictures. A lot of the curb and gutter is pretty beat up. A lot of the sidewalk also is cracking and moving. They looked at a full reconstruction – street, curb and gutter and sidewalk – and from a utility standpoint. They had some televising done. There's no sewer and water down Hotel Street. Both sides are served behind the buildings. The northern lots including the services to this building are a mess. They're not easily traceable or locatable. The utilities are old and in a poor locations and hard to get to in an emergency. A big need is to get those back in the road and pick up the north buildings. We would have sewer running down Hotel Street and the water main would loop through between Commercial and Rutland and get this building and next door on stubs into 92. It will entail some private plumbing work to have discussion on where to stub out sewer and water, which would involve checking the house basements, etc. They evaluated rerouting utilities. And as the bank moved and there is not a true dedicated parking lot, they evaluated putting a parking lot in, and making it two ways and also looping back to 92 on the north side. It will need some stormwater control. They want to know if the board has thoughts of anything different. They want to exhaust the money available in a constructive manner by the end of the year. Bruner asked if they're looking at doing the entrance on Hotel and diagonal parking and an exit and not taking down the first lane of the drive thru. Other board members said, no, we weren't going to keep the drive thru lane. Bruner likes this plan.

Podgorski asked if there's reduced parking if we go diagonal. Solan said yes. He said there is work ahead of this work. The Village will have to take out the overhead and demo the shed before this project. You have enough space with the lot to do parking on both sides and maximize parking per footprint. You can really do more, but it's wide enough to get stormwater. It's Green County but they use Dane County stormwater restrictions. Gehrman asked about the plumbing for houses; we might have to be into their basement and do work. Solan said yes, you don't want to, but there are cases where water mains were installed a long time ago and now we need to put them in a different location. They will have a cutoff point where the village contractor will take it out and then have a selection of plumbers to work with. It's case by case. They have a place holder in the budget. Gehrman asked if the homeowner would have to come up with the fee or could it go on their tax rolls. Solan said it can be done and assessed to them. Kuhlman agreed and said the village would have to hold meetings with the property owners before starting the project. Brusberg asked how much for each homeowner. Solan has a number of \$10,000 for each, but it depends on what happens. Spilde said it's the business next door, the post office and two houses and our building. Solan said this isn't a 2024 project but wants feedback to make changes before the end of the year. He wants to get to the point to be able to pick this up again in a year and move forward with the design. Brusberg asked with how dated the street is, are there historical grants for this type of renovation project. Solan said not that he can think of. Gehrman said we will want to work out the stormwater, especially with Highway 92 being redone. Solan said ahead of this project, stormsewer-wise it will need some minor stormwater changes, and getting that inlet across Highway 92 while torn up would be beneficial. Brusberg asked if there are any other costs borne by the businesses or homeowners. Solan said it would be subject to standard assessment for sidewalk and curb and gutter. Kuhlman said we can't do new expenses in TID 1. We can use up to the \$16,000 that we had contracted with Strand previous to the cutoff. That's why we're trying to use those funds to get to as far as we can. Brusberg asked if any landscaping should be considered. Solan said in the basin it would be nice to incorporate some plantings and a bio retention. You can do terrace trees and decorative lighting. You can plan for that in the future. They allocated space on the south and north to have enough room if you wanted to do decorative lighting, etc. It doesn't make sense to do that now. A project like this might spur adjacent improvements. Brusberg asked if anything can go between our building and the Brooklyn Barn where the sidewalk goes in. Solan said it would make sense to do something. Brusberg said that could be a spot to do something in between with a courtyard used for community events. Solan said nothing is set in stone with this layout. This is a 2d, 30% plan. Podgorski would like to see more lighting in the parking lot. Solan said village ordinance will require certain lighting. Bruner said lights would shine down. Brusberg thinks this looks good, and one tweak would be some landscaping. It has maximized the parking and solves some of the water issues. Olson said it's another loop in the water line. The board thanked Solan.

**Public Comments** – Kuhlman said the Chamber Santa Day is this Saturday, December 2, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m., and also the church's regifting. **President report** – Bruner hopes everyone had a happy Thanksgiving. He made a post on the village president Facebook page and expressed his thanks to board, staff, and citizens.

**Brusberg made a motion to approve minutes of November 13.** Berland seconded. Motion carried. Podgorski abstained.

**New Business** – Bruner said everyone should have gotten an updated list of invoices. **Gehrman made a motion to approve the bills as presented with the additional invoices.** Olson seconded. Motion carried.

**TID 2 Business Park expansion** -- Solan reported we had 8 bidders for the project. That's the max he's seen ever. We had a range of bidders, and the apparent low is Fischer Excavating out of Freeport, Illinois. He's worked with them before, which was a \$2 million street reconstruction project. They finished the job within the time and on schedule. They also worked on a project in Whitewater comparable in size to ours. They are a larger contractor that has started to show up in northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin. It came in line with the engineer's estimate. Until the insurance comes in, he'd like to either conditionally approve or award it at the next meeting. Gehrman asked if any local companies bid. Solan said they had a wide array, from Freeport to Horicon, Janesville, Monroe. Spilde said all the ones we thought would bid, did bid. Brusberg was surprised with estimates that came

back in the different categories. Solan said they sometimes bury costs and might put a heavier number on it than something else. The lift station had a lot of differences. Brusberg asked if there are any concerns with Fischer from his direct working with them. Solan had no problems either way. Brusberg asked Spilde if he's heard of Fischer. Spilde said he's never worked with them, only from Strand. They're a large company. Brusberg asked how it works with estimates; are they held to the number. Solan said their unit price number they're held to unless there are substantial changes. There might be some unexpected change orders, but it should hopefully be less likely here. Brusberg asked if the \$2.1 million excludes any on top contingency that we layered in. Solan agreed. Gehrmann asked how is their safety. Solan said they recently had a death on a project. That can't preclude them if their insurance is met, so we want to make sure we hold off until their insurance is in hand. Gehrmann asked if the others provided their insurance. Solan said they provided what they needed to at this point. There were no prequalifications, but they know it was a requirement. Solan doesn't know about the incident other than what he read in the news article. Brusberg said in 2013 they had a fine of \$65,000, and the recent issue happened similarly in 2022. Berland said it sounds like they have some OSHA issues. Their work doesn't sound like an issue. The biggest impact to us is if OSHA comes back and fines them, it could affect us through higher insurance premiums. It won't affect us now that the bid is in. What we have to be concerned about is their workplace safety and reputation rather than shoddy work. Solan said they're locked into their prices in the bid. We might finish the project before that case even goes to court. Berland said his biggest concern would be if someone got hurt, would we suffer any reputational damage. He sees nothing in their history that their work won't meet our expectations, and from that standpoint he feels comfortable with it. Bruner said if someone is hurt on this job, it shouldn't fall back on the village, because we're not the ones doing the work. Berland said we would have our name associated in those news articles, but it's not a huge issue. Bruner doesn't see any negative impact for the village. Gehrmann said the biggest risk is if something happens and they go out of business, but they're bonded. **Brusberg made a motion that we provide conditional approval to Fischer Excavating pending insurance being provided to the village.** Berland seconded. Motion carried.

**Indoor play space** – Kuhlman explained that someone is interested in leasing the empty space where Heart of Brooklyn had space. She wants to do an indoor play space and is looking at zoning. There is nothing specific to what she wants to do. Daycares are permitted, but it depends on what we want to use as a definition. Berland said it would fit under conditional uses for sports and fitness. Kuhlman said she will have to go through conditional use process. Berland is not opposed to moving sports facilities into permitted uses and maybe we should consider that in the future. The board thinks it would be under conditional use of sports and fitness. Kuhlman will talk to the person about a conditional use. **Podgorski made a motion to postpone taking action on allowing an indoor play space in the zoning until the prospective tenant makes a decision about when they would like to move forward with their business.** Gehrmann seconded. Motion carried.

**Brusberg made a motion to accept the proposed senior center agreement.** Berland seconded. Motion carried.

**Public Works** – Spilde gave the monthly report. The earlier approved RAS/WAS repairs are not completed yet. We're waiting for part. North Kerch Street lift station upgrade is done for the business park. Emergency management - nothing. We had the insurance claim on the building and the work is just about done. They ground brush, and we might go to every year instead of every two years. Leaf pickup is just about complete. Holiday lights are up. There are bills for stacker parts. It's from the 80s and they had to repair a lot of rams. They did a tree removal project with the Town of Brooklyn and did a demo of a new wood chipper in the park. Highway 92 is scheduled for 2025. Gehrmann asked if the stakes have to stay in the yards until then. Spilde doesn't know. Spilde said he will talk to Solan about storm sewer because we initially said we weren't doing anything. Dumpster days totals are pretty equivalent but a little bit more than last year but not the highest we've had. We didn't get a fall credit on metal. They said it was contaminated. Olson said they will start taking pictures in the future. He watches it pretty closely. Spilde said there's a chance during the day someone put something in. **Well maintenance update** –Spilde received an update from the company doing the work, and we're still within the budget. We got DNR approval last Wednesday, so hopefully they'll finish soon. We need a permit to pump water out of the well onto the ground. The **truck** he wants to skip tonight because we don't have the final numbers yet. Brusberg asked

where does the discussion about the **parking on MM** go to and when will it be discussed. Olson said it was Public Works, but we didn't have a meeting last month. Spilde said it's on for next Monday night. He's had multiple people ask about it. Podgorski asked is the new **siren** shorter on purpose. Spilde said the state does not recommend having a siren other than for emergencies. He told them to do the shortest possible, but we can do it as long as we want.

**Clerk's report** – Village hall remodeling plans were sent to Groenier and we're waiting to hear back from him. Olson, Podgorski and Gehrmann have election paperwork to rerun. December 1 candidates can start circulating paperwork, and January 2 at 5 p.m. is the deadline to hand in. December 22 is deadline if you don't want to run for reelection. Possible February election, and elections will now be held at village hall. Poll workers will be confirmed next month for the next term. We found out today that Brandon Hollis passed his advanced wastewater course, and so his raise and his title are now official. Board congratulated him.

**Brusberg made a motion to approve the 2024 insurance through the League.** Berland seconded. Motion carried.

Kuhlman stated increment in TID 1 for 2024 is \$68,922.75, and for TID 2 it is \$85,104.87. Dane County mill rate will be \$25.32, which is 28 cents more than last year. Dane County and school district went up and we went down. Green County mill rate is \$27.88, which is down 37 cents from last year. Green County went down and we went down, school district went up. **Brusberg made a motion to approve TID 1 and TID 2 budgets.** Olson seconded. Motion carried.

**Business Park** – Kuhlman stated that she met with the Georges, and they do not want to sell the next phase parcels separately. Ehlers went through some new projections, after receiving some new figures on purchasing and reselling land. With the new projections with additional land, we should come out a little better. She sent an email to Mortensen and Groenier, asking for them to guarantee timeline on purchase. Brusberg is fine with putting the 15 acres into the TID, but he's not fine purchasing it without getting confirmation from Mortensen and Groenier. **Berland made a motion to extend the TID 2 boundaries to include the 15 plus acres.** Brusberg seconded. Motion carried. **Brusberg made a motion to postpone any purchase of the 15 acres in the business park pending receiving offers on existing land available.** Podgorski seconded. Motion carried.

**Fire/EMS** – Brusberg said they had their meeting recently. The minutes are in the packet. They focused on an update from fire/EMS and call volume. Volumes were down, but November there was an uptick in call volume. Out of service hours for the month were five. They're still struggling with staffing. They passed the bylaws and sent them back to members to discuss at their meeting. They were well written and well done.

**Planning & Zoning Commission** – Bruner said we were approached by a corporation out of Waunakee looking at developing parcels east on 92 and doing a preliminary inquiry as to whether or not we would annex to the village and connect to village water and sewer. It was a very big expense and they were feeling it out. They had done other developments in the area. Brusberg asked where they are looking at. Olson said going east, after you get past the place with the firewood. Brusberg asked how many homes? Bruner and Olson thought about 27 and might do more phases. There are lots of variables, and it's very low land. Brusberg asked if they're willing to pay for fees to get connected. Olson said no. Bruner told them they would have to. Olson said they would want us to run sewer/water out there, and there's a lot of old roadbed along 92 and it would be a lot of work. It's not a good location. Brusberg said if they would be willing to put it in, it would be an idea. Brusberg said if there's another one that expresses interest, and they will pay, we should consider it. Berland said if they come back and say they want to buy it, we should talk about it. There was discussion about having to annex it, etc. PZ also discussed creating an ordinance for abandoned buildings. They have some sample ordinances and will work on that over the next couple of months. Their next meeting is January 9.

**Olson made a motion at 8:05 p.m. to adjourn.** Berland seconded. Motion carried.

# January

2024

| Sunday | Monday                                                     | Tuesday                                                                                   | Wednesday                                                                       | Thursday                                                          | Friday                                           | Saturday                                            |
|--------|------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
|        | 1<br><b>Clerk's Office &amp; Public Work's Dept Closed</b> | 2<br><b>Tires**, Oil &amp; Battery Pick up</b><br>Trustee Nomination<br>Paperwork due 5pm | 3<br>Yoga 6p                                                                    | 4<br><b>Garbage &amp; Recycling</b><br>Bookmobile – Gazebo 6-730p | 5                                                | 6                                                   |
| 7      | 8<br>PIYO 6p<br><b>Village Board Mtg 630p</b>              | 9<br><b>PZ Mtg 6p</b>                                                                     | 10<br><b>Garbage</b><br>Yoga 6p                                                 | 11<br>Bookmobile – Gazebo 6-730p                                  | 12                                               | 13                                                  |
| 14     | 15<br>PIYO 6p                                              | 16                                                                                        | 17<br><b>Garbage &amp; Recycling</b><br>Yoga 6p                                 | 18<br>Bookmobile- Gazebo 6-730p                                   | 19                                               | 20                                                  |
| 21     | 22<br>PIYO 6p<br><b>Village Board Mtg 630p</b>             | 23                                                                                        | 24<br><b>Garbage</b><br>Yoga 6p                                                 | 25<br>Bookmobile- Gazebo 6-730p                                   | 26                                               | 27                                                  |
| 28     | 29<br>PIYO 6p                                              | 30                                                                                        | 31<br><b>Garbage &amp; Recycling</b><br>Yoga 6p<br><b>2023 Tax Payments Due</b> |                                                                   | Exercise Classes held at Brooklyn Community Bldg | **\$ 10/Tire<br>Contact Clerk's Office 608-455-4201 |