



TOWN OF BROOKLYN

Annual Newsletter - December 2021

Brooklyn Town Hall

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Chair

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Office Hours:
Tues. 1PM - 4PM
unless otherwise posted or
by appointment

Treasurer

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Town Board Meetings are
held the 2nd Monday of each
month at 8pm.

Highway Committee

Hans Herweijer, Chairman
brooklyn.highway@gmail.com

Planning Commission

James Kramer, Chairman
608-225-1802

Recycling Committee

Kevin Santulis, Chairman
ksantulis@gmail.com
608-455-1523

Parks Commissioner

Kathy Pennington
kathypennington55@gmail.com
773-636-0501

Broadband & Brooklyn Fire

John Marx
608-455-1037

Tax Collection

The Green County Treasurer's office collects Real Estate & Personal Property taxes for the Town of Brooklyn. You may mail your payment or stop by the Green County Courthouse during business hours. Also accepting payments are the following banks: Bank of New Glarus - Monroe, Belleville, Brodhead, Juda, & New Glarus; State Bank of Cross Plains - Brooklyn & New Glarus; Monona Bank - Belleville & Brooklyn. Payments can be made at www.co.green.wi.gov with debit or credit, but incur a 2.35% surcharge.

Brooklyn Fire & EMS Update

The Brooklyn Fire & EMS District has proposed a management restructuring plan designed to improve day-time staffing. A full-time fire chief will be hired appointed in January. The Chief will be available to staff both fire and EMS vehicles during weekdays, along with existing paid part-time EMTs. Fire and EMS volunteers would continue to staff equipment evenings and weekends. The plan was approved by the five municipalities that fund the district. The Village of Brooklyn required the adoption of a strategic plan prior to approving the management changes. The strategic plan was completed in August, 2021.

The District replaced a 27-year old fire engine in 2021. The engine is one of two operated by the fire district, along with water tankers and trucks designed to fight off-road incidents. The new engine was designed to service both fire and medical calls. Medical calls are 63 percent of the district's work.

-- John Marx, Town Representative to the Brooklyn Fire District Commission

Liberty Pole Hill Park & Brooklyn Area Veteran's Memorial

Town of Brooklyn has two parks – Liberty Pole Hill and Brooklyn Area Veterans Memorial.

Liberty Pole Hill Park is located west of Brooklyn off of State Highway 92 on Amidon Road. The outdoor setting with covered pavilion, picnic tables, playground equipment, and porta-potty is a great location to host gatherings and meetings. If you need electricity for your event, checkout the Town's website for details.

Brooklyn Area Veterans Memorial Park honors our veterans who have served or are currently serving in U.S. Military. We hosted our annual Memorial Day activities this past year and plan to do it again in May 2022.

If you are interested in supporting the Memorial visit the website for details on how to purchase a paver, make a donation or volunteer: brooklynveteransmemorial.org.

-- Kathy Pennington, Parks Commissioner

All Fire & EMS Departments Need Volunteers

The Brooklyn Fire and EMS District continues to recruit volunteer fire fighters, emergency medical technicians and drivers. If you are interested in serving your community and learning new skills, we encourage you to look into volunteer opportunities. Please call the station at 455-3812 or use the contact form at brooklynfireems.org.

A few sections of the town are served by Fire and EMS services based in Albany, Belleville, and Evansville. If you are interested in volunteering with these agencies, contact information is available on the town website: townofbrooklyn.org. Look for the tab Fire / EMS and then Fire & EMS Provider Information.

Bill's Supermarket provides support to Brooklyn Fire and EMS with a one percent reward on purchases at the store. Save your Bill's receipts and put them in the drop box in the fire station parking lot.

-- John Marx, Town Representative to the Brooklyn Fire District Commission

The Road Report

In 2021, the Town completed several large road reconstruction and maintenance projects. Smith Road between Yarwood and Horan Roads was reconstructed (old pavement pulverized, graded to form a properly shaped road bed, and resurfaced with new asphalt). This completed the reconstruction of Smith Road – the section between Amidon and Yarwood Roads was done in 2020. The full length of Horan Road was also reconstructed. The total reconstruction length of 3.5 mi in 2021 is greater than the typical one mile that is completed each year. This was done as higher prices are anticipated next year.

Sealcoating was done on Behnke, and parts of Benson, King, and Smith Road. Extensive shouldering work was done on many of the town's roads. Plans for 2022 will be finalized next spring after winter damage can be assessed, but likely will include sealcoating of several roads, shouldering as necessary, and replacement of failing culverts. The Town has submitted a grant application, which if awarded would provide State funds to cover part of a road reconstruction project in 2023.

-- Hans Herweijer, Highway Committee Chair

Snow & Other Hazards in Road & Right-Of-Way

With winter approaching, the Town of Brooklyn Town Board wishes to remind everyone that depositing snow or ice from your driveway onto the highway or highway shoulders is not only dangerous, but illegal. This not only applies to you, the homeowner/landowner, but also to contractors hired under your direction. Please do not plow your snow onto Town Right-of-Way (33' from the center of the road). In addition, items stored in the road right-of-way create a hazard for both our Town Patrolman, other residents, and drivers. Please keep your section of the right-of-way empty. Thank you for doing your part in keeping our roads safe.

Dog Licenses

Wisconsin State Law requires all dogs over 5 months of age to be licensed by April 1st of each year or when they turn 5 months old, if later in the year. Non-compliance can result in assessment of late fees collected through fees and penalties being placed on your property tax bill and/or other charges. You must provide:

- a completed application
- a current rabies vaccination certificate (or copy)
- a self-addressed stamped envelope (for your license and rabies certificate to be mailed back to you)

Send payment to: Town of Brooklyn, Russ Cichy – Treasurer, 400 W. Main Street, Brooklyn, WI 53521. If you prefer, you can drop off the completed application with your check at the Recycle Center or the Town Hall during normal hours.

Dog license fees: Spayed/Neutered \$17 ea., Unspayed/Unneutered \$22 ea., Multiple Dogs \$35 (up to 12 dogs, \$3 extra for each dog over 12).

Internet Options in the Town of Brooklyn

Bug Tussel, the wireless internet provider leasing land from the town for the 300-foot communications tower at the town recycling center, is operational. Town residents are eligible for a discount on Bug Tussel's monthly rate. Their 25 Mbps service is \$50 plus taxes and fees for town residents. Separately, the tower also carries cellular phone service from AT&T.

Frontier Communications completed installation of new fiber optic lines in the 455 telephone exchange. Frontier offers 25 Mbps service in most of the exchange area; it may not be available in areas on the fringe.

The town website has a list of all the broadband internet providers serving the town. See townofbrooklyn.org and look under the Community tab for Internet Service Providers. -- John Marx, Broadband Commissioner

Town Chair's Report

Thank you for your support in April. I'm excited to serve as your Chairperson.

Specific Fire & EMS, Internet, and Highway updates are in other parts of the newsletter, so I want to discuss our Town levy. Over 75% of the levy is spent on roads and public safety. We anticipate these two expenses to continue to increase each year. Agriculture relies heavily on a solid road system to connect them to their fields and market. If you &/or your equipment damage a road, please inform the Town. Generally, your insurance will cover the repairs. If not, the Town must reallocate money from scheduled projects to repair damaged roads.

I serve on the Green County Broadband Committee which is developing a strategic plan to identify areas for broadband expansion throughout the county.

The Town received American Rescue Plan monies and will allocate funds in accordance with U.S. Treasury rules. As I mentioned earlier, expenses are increasing. The last approved levy increase was three years ago. The Town Board of Supervisors remain mindful of the rising costs while executing a balanced annual budget.

If you have any suggestions, questions, or comments, do not hesitate to email or call.

-- Kathy Pennington, Town Chair

Mailbox Replacement

If your mailbox gets hit by the Town's snowplow, the Town has a policy in place to pay a one-time \$25 reimbursement for a new mailbox. Your box must be physically hit by the plow, not merely by snow wash. If this happens, take a photo of the hit box and send it to clerk@brooklynwi.org.