

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

## May 2024 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 608-455-1501  
102 Windy Lane  
Email: [publicworks@brooklynwi.gov](mailto:publicworks@brooklynwi.gov)

### **BREAKFAST ON THE FARM**

**Green County Breakfast on the Farm** - May 25, 2024 – 6a to 10a  
Jeff & Julie Nimtz Family – w7497 Farmers Grove Rd – Monticello, WI

**Dane County Breakfast on the Farm** – June 8, 2024 - 7a to 1130a  
Blue Star Dairy Farms – 7502 Patton Rd – Deforest, WI

**Rock County Breakfast on the Farm** – June 8, 2024 – 630a to 11a  
Morton Dairy – 15739 W. State Road 59 – Evansville, WI



# PUBLIC WORKS WEEK – May 19-25, 2024



## Brush Pickup

### 2nd Tuesday of each month

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



## Summer Lawn Meter(s)

Outside water meters are available at the Clerk's Office to be rented for outdoor purposes. This includes establishing a new lawn, filling a pool, or watering your garden.

Water used outdoors is not discharged into the wastewater system. Therefore, residents can rent outside meters to track their outdoor usage and receive a sewer use credit at the end of the summer season or by calling in the meter readings monthly (27th of each mo.) to the

Clerk's Office at 608-455-4201 ext. 1.

### Cost

The cost is as follows:

- \$ 7.50 rental fee per month
- \$ 100 security deposit

If the meter is damaged in any way, including leaving it out in freezing conditions, the security deposit will be forfeited. Meters need to be returned by September 30<sup>th</sup>.

Pursuant to the PSC, water adjustments cannot be made for temporary water meters.





## National Police Week May 12 – 18, 2024



The Dane County Library Service Bookmobile visits Brooklyn year-round on Thursday evenings from 6-7:30 at the gazebo on Commercial St. The Bookmobile has books, magazines, movies, and music for all ages. A library card from any South-

Central Library works on the Bookmobile. Don't have a library card? You can get one on board the Bookmobile!

The Summer Reading Program is right around the corner! Kids can sign up in Brooklyn starting on June 13. We'll have fun crafts and prizes through August 15!

Visit [dcls.info](http://dcls.info) for full schedule and more. Call 608-266-9297 or email

[bookmobile.dcl@gmail.com](mailto:bookmobile.dcl@gmail.com) with questions.

### BROOKLYN – GREEN COUNTY RESIDENTS

#### Ways to contact us!

Website - [adrcgreencounty.org](http://adrcgreencounty.org)

Facebook - ADRC of Southwest Wisconsin

Email - [resourcecenter@gchsd.org](mailto:resourcecenter@gchsd.org)

Phone - 608-328-9499

Look for ADRC Green County newsletter "The Bridge" monthly in the Great Dane Shopping News



The Aging & Disability Resource Center in Green County provides information, assistance, and services to help older people and people with disabilities remain healthy and independent.



# May 2024 News from Your Senior Center

By Rachel Brickner

There is plenty happening at the Senior Center during the next month, and you are welcome to be a part of it all!

The Senior Center first opened its doors in its current location in May of 1980, so this year we are celebrating our 44<sup>th</sup> anniversary. On Friday, May 24, the Senior Center will be throwing a free party. Music from Four Seasons Theater starts at 1:30, to be followed by cake and conversation. If you plan to join us, please RSVP at 608-835-5801.

We are launching a new fitness class at the end of May called “Ageless Grace.” It will meet at 10:00 on Fridays for six weeks starting May 31. This class is different in that it is a cutting-edge **brain** fitness class which in some ways will resemble a seated exercise class. It focuses on activities that activate all five functions of the brain—strategic planning, memory/recall, analytical thinking, creativity and imagination, and kinesthetic learning—while simultaneously addressing all 21 physical skills needed for lifelong optimal function. That course costs \$30.00. Please call Gail for more information or to register at 608-576-8162.

We will be showing the movie “Nine Lives” in our main hall on Wednesday, May 22 at 1:00 p.m. If you are a cat lover, you might want to consider joining us for this free viewing.

On May 31 at 1:00 the Senior Center is hosting a presentation on down-sizing. The presentation will include tips and resources for decluttering, as well as a review of the current real estate market.

Once you flip the calendar page to June, there is still lots going on. On Wednesday, June 5, at 1:00 we will be hosting a discussion about the ethical dilemmas that can arise at the end of life.

The “Butterfly Lady” will be here on Wednesday, June 12 at 10:45. The Butterfly Lady is a local woman whose passion is butterflies. Come learn more about the life cycle of butterflies, and perhaps experience the opportunity to see some of these flying beauties up close.

Finally, if you are a dog owner or a dog lover, mark your calendar to join us on Friday, June 14 at 10:00. That is the date of our Annual “Show Off Your Dog” Dog Show. (This is an outdoor event, with a rain date of June 21.) Register your dog to see if he or she might win “Best Dressed” or “Happiest Tail” or one of a bunch of other fun categories and enjoy a cold treat for the audience and the participants. If you don’t have a dog, just come watch the fun! Please call 608-835-5801 and talk with Anne if you would like to bring your dog to the event.

**Link to Oregon Senior Center Newsletter or go to**

<https://www.vil.oregon.wi.us/seniorcenter>

## Support Services

- **MEALS**—Nutritious lunches are offered at the Senior Center Monday through Friday. Home-delivered meals are also available Monday through Friday. Suggested minimum donation for those 60 and older is \$4.50 per meal, but please pay only what you can afford. Anyone under 60 must pay the full amount of the cost to provide the meal, which is \$17.20. Lunch at the Senior Center is served at 11:45 AM. Home-delivered meals generally arrive between 11:00 AM and noon. Reservations and cancellations should be made by calling 608-835-5801 two business days before. See page 10 for more information.
- **FOOD PANTRY**—The Oregon/Brooklyn Food Pantry, at 107 North Alpine Parkway in Oregon, is open every Tuesday from 9:00 to 11:00 AM, every second and last Thursday of each month from 4:00 to 6:00 PM, and every first Saturday of the month from 9:00 to 11:00 AM. Please call 608-835-5801 to arrange transportation.
- **LOAN CLOSET**—If you need durable medical equipment, such as crutches, wheelchairs, walkers, commodes, canes, etc., you may now check out equipment. You may also return equipment that you are no longer using. Please note that you **MUST HAVE AN APPOINTMENT** to either pick up or return equipment. Call Carol or Noriko at 608-835-5801 to schedule your appointment. **Walking sticks are available for 3 week loans.**
- **LEGAL COUNSELING**—Several local attorneys offer free consultations to local seniors. Please call Carol or Noriko at 608-835-5801 for this information.
- **LGBT SENIOR ASSISTANCE**—Call the Senior Advocate from the OutReach LGBT Community Center at 608-255-8582.



# Accurate Appraisal LLC – Educational Corner



Open Book for Village of Brooklyn is  
May 23 from 4-6 pm.

Board of Review for Village of Brooklyn is  
June 11 from 6-8 pm.

[accurateassessor.com](http://accurateassessor.com)

920-749-8098

**DID YOU KNOW?**

The State of WI is a **Market Value** state. They require assessed property value to be within 10% of market value to remain in compliance.

The State of WI also uses **Equalized Value** for tax purposes. If your assessment is 12% below market value, the state will add 12% to your assessment before taxes.

**When assessments fall out of compliance an Interim Market Update is needed.** Not every community revalues property on the same schedule. Some revalue every year while others revalue only when they fall out of

**Assessor's Value ÷ State's Value = Equalized Value**

**Market Value.** Last year the state of WI saw an average 12% increase in property sale value. This impacts the overall increase for assessments, especially if your community is revalued every year.

Assessments always follow a full year of sales data so any new assessed values for 2024 will take into consideration the 2023 market, not 2024 sales.

**Brand new this year** we have developed an innovative online open book assistant.

This new feature offers property owners the opportunity to submit their objection of value in a much faster way. Property owners still have the ability to sign up for a face-to-face appointment or call our office to talk to an assessor.

However, our new online [Open Book Assistant](#) allows property owners to fill out a **Request for Assessment Review Form**. Property owners no longer have to set a formal appointment time or take time off work to meet face-to-face. This process has more than doubled our

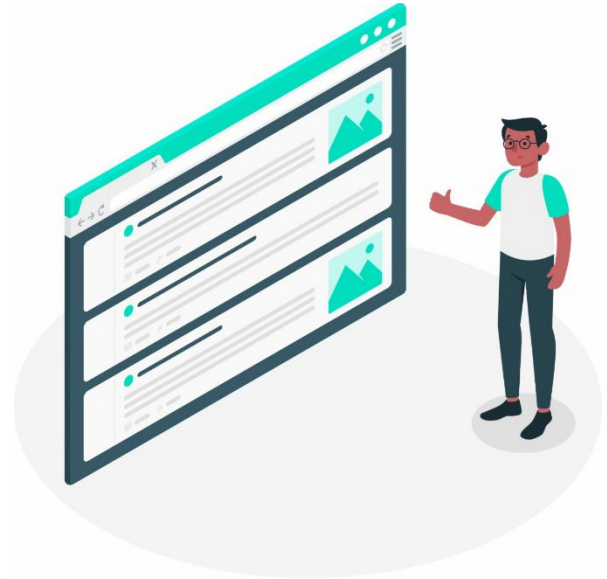


response time, meaning we can get answers back to your constituents in a faster and more accurate way.

### How property owners submit a request for review form on the Open Book Assistant:

**Link and QR code:** Every notice that is sent will have a link and QR code for the property owner to visit our website and fill out the review form. Along with the Open Book Assistant, property owners can check out our assessment education, watch videos, and visit DOR links to learn more about how assessments work.

**Online Connection:** A simple click of the Open Book Assistant brings up the option to select their municipality and the ability to search for specific parcels. Before a property owner submits their request for review, they watch an informative video and look through a few FAQ's. This process is set up to answer questions before they continue on. Once a Request for Assessment Review is submitted, an assessor will review the request and reply to the owner quickly.



**Setting Online Appointments:** Each property owner is given the option to set an appointment for face-to-face open book meeting. If appointments are full for in person open book, we take walk-ins first come first serve as well.

By offering multiple ways to connect with an assessor, we allow for more freedom and flexibility for property owners to choose the option that works best for them. We will continue to enhance the **Open Book Assistant** feature, if you have any suggestions, we would be happy to look them over and make this process the best it can be!

Please contact us at: [info@accurateassessor.com](mailto:info@accurateassessor.com).

Website: <https://accurateassessor.com/>

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## Get Fit Class Schedule

Monday - 6:00pm  
PIYO

Wednesday night - 6:00pm  
Yoga Slow Flow

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**COMMUNITY POTLUCK**  
**Thursday, May 23, 2024, At Noon**  
**Brooklyn Methodist Church**

Everyone - all ages are welcome.

Bring a dish to pass.

Table service and beverages are provided.

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**Ice Cream Social**  
**Brooklyn Methodist Church**  
**Thursday, June 6th**  
**4:30 pm to 7:30 pm**

Serving: Barbeque, Hot Dogs, Baked Beans, Chips,  
Ice Cream, Assorted Desserts, and Beverages.

Brooklyn Dairy Queen Crowning -7 pm

See You There!

Handicap Accessible

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BE SURE TO JOIN US  
FOR FOOD TRUCK TUESDAY:  
3RD TUESDAY OF THE MONTH  
MAY - SEPTEMBER  
5:00PM-8:00PM  
BROOKLYN  
LEGION PARK  
LIVE MUSIC



Brooklyn Recreation Committee  
is part of The Village of Brooklyn  
PO Box 189, 210 Commercial Street,  
Brooklyn, WI 53521

[www.brooklynwi.gov](http://www.brooklynwi.gov)  
[www.brooklynrecreation.org](http://www.brooklynrecreation.org)  
[www.facebook.com/BrooklynRecWI](https://www.facebook.com/BrooklynRecWI)  
[www.twitter.com/BrooklynRecWI](https://www.twitter.com/BrooklynRecWI)





# Craft and Vendor Fair

Prairie View Elementary  
300 Soden Dr Oregon, WI

Saturday June 22, 2024

10 am - 3 pm

FREE ADMISSION

Questions Contact Rhonda at 608-205-7551 or  
[rswaldvogel50@gmail.com](mailto:rswaldvogel50@gmail.com)





# BROOKLYN FIRE & EMS



## WEBSITE

[www.brooklynfireems.org](http://www.brooklynfireems.org)

## FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

**Brooklyn WI Fire and EMS**

## EUCHRE CARD PARTY

**SATURDAY, MAY 18<sup>TH</sup> 2024**

***Food will be served from 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m. Games will start at 6:30 p.m.***

Enclosed are two \$5.00 tickets for entry to the party. The meal is included with your ticket purchase! Please mail your ticket payment or pay at the door on May 18<sup>th</sup>. Join your friends and neighbors for a fun evening of euchre with sandwiches, beverages, treats and prizes! We will have silent auction baskets, door prizes and a 50/50 raffle. This is one of our main fund-raising events of the year. All contributions are greatly appreciated. The Brooklyn Fire & EMS Association is 501(c)3 compliant. Proceeds from fund raising have been used for training materials and expenses, meals for personnel during emergency situations, and to support and grow public education and public relation programs for Fire and EMS in our community.

In 2024, the Brooklyn Fire & EMS Association is planning to purchase new dress uniforms for our active members. These uniforms would be a much-needed improvement to what we have currently and would be an updated and consistent look for the department. They would be used for special occasions, and events related to the Fire and EMS department.

## 2023

As many of you know, in September of 2023 Brooklyn was a host site for the Luke Bryan Farm Tour. Also, Brooklyn was the host site for the 2023 Dane County National Night Out. In March of 2023 Brooklyn Fire & EMS advanced the level of pre-hospital care that we can provide to the Advanced EMT flex level. What this means is that when staffed appropriately, we can now provide a higher level of pre-hospital care than ever before. We have several members who are trained to this level, and more working to achieve it. To say that 2023 was a different and busy year is an understatement!

## MONETARY DONATIONS

We appreciate your donations, please issue payment to Brooklyn Fire & EMS Association. Checks can be mailed to Brooklyn Fire & EMS P.O. Box 250 Brooklyn, WI 53521.

## CONTROLLED BURN REGISTRY

If you plan to do outdoor burning, you can easily register your information on our website at [www.brooklynfireems.org](http://www.brooklynfireems.org). For questions regarding burning ordinances in your municipality, check our website for burning ordinances of the five municipalities in our area. Current fire conditions can be found on the DNR website at <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/>

## BROOKLYN S.A.F.E. (Brooklyn Support of Fire and EMS)

Are you looking for a way to help without becoming a firefighter or EMT? Brooklyn S.A.F.E. is a group of members, spouses, and community members like you! We are looking for people with different skill sets and experiences that would like to volunteer some of their time. Do you know how to write grants? Can you hold seminars on health



and nutrition? Are you a physical fitness coach? are you a cleaner? Are you a painter? Do you have any other talents that you would be willing to share? We would love for you to join our group!

***For more information on this or any of our other events, email us at  
departmentevents@brooklynfireems.org***

***The members of Brooklyn Fire & EMS  
appreciate your continued support!  
Thank you!***

**BE THE ONE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE – JOIN US TODAY!**

Please see our website for an application at [www.brooklynfireems.org](http://www.brooklynfireems.org)

We are neighbors helping neighbors to keep our community safe. Join today and

Learn life-long skills as an Emergency Medical Technician, Emergency Medical Responder, or Firefighter. The Brooklyn Fire and EMS Protection District will pay for your classes to become a Firefighter, EMT or EMR.

We are always looking for new members who are motivated to help their community.

Please fill out this form and return it to:

***Brooklyn Fire & EMS -401 W. Main St. - P.O. Box 250 - Brooklyn, WI 53521  
(608) 455-3812***

**I am interested in becoming a:**

**Firefighter – Emergency Medical Technician - Emergency Medical Responder**

**NAME:**

**ADDRESS:**

**PHONE NUMBER:**

**E-MAIL:**

Thank you for your interest, you will be contacted soon.

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**SENIOR CITIZENS**

In past years we have received a list of senior citizens that live in our area. The Oregon Senior Center is not able to provide these names to us. We want to update our records so that we are able to provide additional services to people in need. Some of the services we offer to senior citizens include checking and changing batteries in their smoke detectors, and assistance with file of life information and contact forms. If you or someone you know is a senior citizen and feel you/they could benefit from these services, please fill out the bottom portion of this form and mail it back to us.

Brooklyn Fire & EMS - 401 W. Main St. - P.O. Box 250 - Brooklyn, WI 53521

**SENIOR CITIZEN NAME:**

**ADDRESS:**

**PHONE NUMBER:**

**E-MAIL:**





**Memorial Day Ceremony**  
**May 27, 2024 – 9:30 a.m.**  
**Brooklyn Area Veterans Memorial**  
(400 W. Main Street – Brooklyn)



**Additional Services:**

11:00 a.m. – Oregon @ Oregon WWII  
Monument, Janesville Street

12:30 p.m. – Fitchburg @ Schley Memorial,  
Gorman Wayside (2377 S Fish Hatchery  
Road) or in case of inclement weather  
@Fitchburg Fire Station Lacy Rd



## Brooklyn Village Board Meeting Minutes - April 8, 2024

The April 8, 2024, Village Board meeting of the Village of Brooklyn was called to order at 6:30 p.m. at the Village Hall by President Mark Bruner. Trustees present were Chris Groenier, Dan Olson, Michael Gehrmann, Mike Brusberg, and David Berland. Janeen Podgorski was absent. Also present were Public Works Director Leif Spilde and Clerk-Treasurer Linda Kuhlman. Pledge of Allegiance. No public comments.

**President's report** – Bruner thanked Janeen Podgorski for her service to the board and is glad she'll stay on Planning & Zoning. He wished an early happy birthday to Linda Kuhlman. Saturday he and Brusberg met with Senator Spreitzer and Representative Jacobson. They gave them some background and asked for assistance if we run into hurdles with state agencies. They will do research to see if they can find some grant money for us. Brusberg said that was minimal, as to what they could do to be an advocate for Brooklyn. If the clerk could give them some info on Highway 92 and Hotel Street, they're happy to be a resource. He explained to them our median income is too high for most grants. They said there's been affordable/ workforce housing that could benefit the village, creating a connection between the state and the developer. There's some recent bills that were passed. Bruner said the workforce housing grant is not subject to the income thresholds, and we would have to partner with the developer. Spreitzer is no longer our state senator. Howard Marklein is. Jenna Jacobson is our state representative. Spreitzer was happy to meet.

**Groenier made a motion to approve minutes of March 25.** Brusberg seconded. Motion carried. Berland abstained.

**PW/Utilities/Emergency Management** – Spilde stated it's time to seal the parking lot alley south of Hotel Street. They will spray it like was done at the community building and public works lot. There were four bidders. We require proof of insurance upon opening the bids, and two did not have insurance included. Two of the bidders put striping in their bid and it wasn't requested, so Spilde called the others to see what striping costs would be. He asked if the board wanted to discuss accepting without insurance, and if the board doesn't accept those bids without insurance, DNS Asphalt and Fahrner were the low bidders. DNS did the last year, and they were satisfied with the work. Once we pick a contractor, he will work with them to do it on Monday when Anchor Club is closed. **Olson made a motion to approve DNS Asphalt for the alleyway sealcoating.** Berland seconded. Spilde asked if the motion can include not accepting the two bids without insurance. Bruner doesn't think they need it in the motion, but Rock County provided it the next day. Olson said yes, but it was the next day. Spilde said they called the next day for the bid price, and he told them they didn't have the insurance, and he told them he'd bring it to the board. Motion carried.

Spilde stated seal coating bids were opened. Fahrner was \$54,299 and Scott was \$61,025. Bruner asked why such a difference on N. Kerch. Spilde said it was a mistake, but they will honor the price. We have \$68,000 in the budget, and he would ask the board to give him permission to spend additional funds up to \$60,000 and add more work. We'll still be under budget. They won't do more sealcoating, but he'd like to put in a paver patch along where they pump Lincoln Street pond. **Berland made a motion to accept the bid from Fahrner for the street work seal coating and approve up to \$60,000 in expenses.** Brusberg seconded. Motion carried.

There's been no action on WWTP permit for land application. Spilde said with Bytec no longer has a permit to haul our sludge. He will work with them to get the permit for the village. He attended the WI Rural Water convention in March, and there are some lead and copper changes that could affect us in three years. Well 1 is up and running. Wastewater engineer from DNR asked how sludge was going and wanted the village to know in the next permit there will be PFAS and PFOA sampling required. Gehrmann thought they got rid of PFAS testing or was that just drinking water. Spilde said it was drinking water, and they didn't get rid of it, but we had none detected. EPA is revisiting that and non-detectable might still have to test. It's \$1,500 to \$2,000 per test. The wastewater, no one knows how they'll enforce it. There's no way to remove PFAS right now from sewer wastewater. Gehrmann asked what you do with the sludge now that you haul if it's got PFAS in it. Spilde said wait for guidance from the EPA. WET test was started today. Two of three speed boards are



installed. Dumpster Days is May 3-12. Bachim will start on the Village Hall demo around Memorial Day. Bruner asked how much flex we have with the speed boards programming. Berland asked about the one on the north side of town, and making the whole curb non-parking, because when there's someone parked next next to and a little beyond, it throws off the speeds. Spilde said he will speak with Grumke. Groenier asked from the driveway north, he doesn't have a problem with no parking. He's not in favor of cars parking on the whole length. Berland agreed and wondered what happened with the discussion about parking there, but he said the parked cars throw off the speed board.

Bruner said next item is discuss/take action on land division application from Johnson Rev Living Trust on parcel 6-20-59 in Town of Union. These next two are extraterritorial and are informational for us. So we can state no objection, or if there is an objection, we can bring that up. **Olson made a motion to have no action on the land division.** There are no concerns for us. Groenier seconded. Motion carried. Bruner said we need a separate motion for the second one. **Olson made a motion that there are no matters with us for application for 60-2-34 in the Town of Union extraterritorial.** Groenier seconded. Motion carried.

Kuhlman explained that Ehlers reviewed our cash management policy and had a few suggestions. Brusberg also would like to qualify in a couple of instances it didn't state village in front of treasurer and didn't include deputy treasurer. **Brusberg made a motion to approve the cash management policy as presented with minor adjustments discussed.** Olson seconded. Motion carried. Bruner received an email from Rachel Brickner at the **Senior Center asking for a letter of support** for grant purposes, and he responded with a letter via his position as village president. It's not word for word the same letter that she proposed. Kuhlman added an invoice for petty cash, because we used \$35 for food for election workers, and also added the Mobil invoice that just came in and is due before the next board meeting. Olson and Gehrmann reviewed those. Olson reviewed all. Brusberg had a question on meters, were we paying from ARPA funds. Kuhlman and Spilde discussed and we didn't take it out of ARPA dollars, because we don't have a lot of ARPA funds, so we took it out of budget. **Olson made a motion to approve bills as presented with the addition of petty cash and Mobil bill.** Brusberg seconded. Motion carried.

Brusberg thanked all the workers for the election. Bruner agreed; thanks to the poll workers and all the voters who came out. **Clerk's report – Financials for March**, total deposit of \$91,221.83 and total withdrawals of \$329,040.24, of which \$82,142.50 were debt payments. Balance at end of month is \$2,783,468.32. Collateral report was handed out. She is working with Ehlers to get accounts set up for investments. We received a housing report from Green County Development Corporation. It was put out by Southwest Regional Planning. Brusberg said it was interesting, considering what we've seen with last phase of Commons. Also handed out the Green County Proceedings book. Fischer has started moving dirt in Business Park. They're using quite a bit of land to the south for pushing dirt, taking from high places and moving to low areas. She called Georges about it. They haven't started to put in crops. Election went well, no problems. We had 223 voters total, which is about 24% of the village – 23% in Green County and 25% in Dane County. Results for trustees were Dan Olson, Mike Gehrmann and Christian Allen. We received a letter from Brooklyn Motoren Werke for funds they received through the TID. When we do alcohol licenses, we charge \$5 per coin operated machine. After discussing with another law enforcement officer, their municipality stopped charging due to liability purposes. In case the bar is using the machines illegally, the village wouldn't be involved. She spoke with Grumke, and he said that if there are illegal machines, that we could end up in federal court if we licensed them without knowing what they are. It's about \$150 revenue. **Groenier made a motion to discontinue the permits for the coin operated machines.** Brusberg seconded. Motion carried.

**Hotel Street parking** – Bruner said all along Main Street in Evansville they have diagonal parking. Spilde said one of the sides there is parallel because they had problems with people backing into people. It's double distance from curb to curb. Berland knew we would lose 3-4 spots, but he feels the angle parking is preferable both to businesses and homeowners. He would still vote to move forward with angled parking. Spilde said the snowplows are 12 feet wide, and if they park to the curb, they will have a foot and a half clearance. If there's a snow pile, they will not have room. They plow during the day and won't be able to do that with angled parking, and that's if they park to the curb. Bruner said once we put in the parking lot, that will get more people off the



street. Brusberg said if we do parallel, could we still turn Hotel Street into one way. Groenier agreed, and the headlights would be going west. Gehrmann likes the one way. Groenier said plowing is an issue if it can't fit. He thinks parallel is okay and keeping it one way. Berland asked about eliminating the two parallel spots closest to the homeowner. He wants the board to think about the homeowner and their experience. Brusberg said before eliminating, can we find a way to get back to him and decide the best feasible solution for garbage and recycling. We can decide that towards the end. Groenier agreed that doesn't have to get decided now. Gehrmann said the engineer didn't like the angle. Spilde said we have to haul all the snow and will have to move a lot more snow. Right now they push it into the center of road and push it out. Spilde also talked about fire truck and ambulance access. **Groenier made a motion to go ahead with the Hotel Street parallel parking and one way going from Rutland to 92.** Brusberg seconded. Brusberg asked if it's possible to add on those two stalls directly in front of the homeowner. Spilde said they will work with the homeowner and see what he wants. Motion carried. Berland abstained.

**Borrowing for village hall outside demolition**--Kuhlman said Lake Ridge Bank said 6.946% and One Community Bank said 6.15% interest. The state is 6% right now. Do we need to borrow. She doesn't know if it can be rolled over into the Clean Water Fund loan. Another option is to put it on the taxes next year. We don't have any loans being paid off next year; nothing until 2028. We've gone down in loan payments over the last couple of years. Bruner asked if we have any houses that finished last year that will be on the tax roll this year. Kuhlman said yes. Bruner asked if we'll see enough tax revenue to offset this. We don't know. There will be a few more houses to spread the taxes out. Olson asked where the finance committee is on this. Bruner said we will do realigning of committees with new board, and then can get some meetings set up. Kuhlman said we will have the auditor's report by the next meeting and will know what our current fund balance is then. Brusberg said in the current environment, he has a hard time at 6% saying it's good to take out a loan. We're better off financing with cash on hand. Everything he's reading rates will decrease, which will open us up for better borrowing rates. He also mentioned we have \$36,000 sitting for this building. Kuhlman said we will need that for inside projects. Brusberg didn't think we had agreed to anything inside except for the security features. Kuhlman said we have plans drawn up, but we haven't bid it out yet. Discussion on inside project. **Groenier made a motion to postpone the discussion of the borrowing for village hall outside demo project.** Olson seconded. Motion carried.

Groenier and Spilde left the meeting. **Gehrman made a motion at 7:22 p.m. to go into closed session.** Olson seconded. Ayes – Berland, Olson, Bruner, Gehrmann and Brusberg. Noes – none. **Gehrmann made a motion at 7:36 p.m. to come out of closed session.** Bruner seconded. Motion carried. Ayes – Berland, Olson, Bruner, Gehrmann and Brusberg. Noes – none. Brusberg said there were no actions coming out of closed session. **Brusberg made a motion at 7:37 p.m. to adjourn.** Olson seconded. Motion carried.

Linda Kuhlman, WCMC, CMTW, Clerk-Treasurer

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**Brooklyn Village Board Meeting Minutes  
April 22, 2024**

The April 22, 2024, Village Board meeting of the Village of Brooklyn was called to order at 6:30 p.m. at the Village Hall by President Mark Bruner. Trustees present were Chris Groenier, Dan Olson, Michael Gehrmann, Mike Brusberg, David Berland, and Christian Allen. Also present were Sue McCallum, Sheri Arndt and Trenton Diehl on behalf of Brooklyn SnoHornets, and Tara Bast and Monica Murphy from Johnson Block, and Clerk-Treasurer Linda Kuhlman. Pledge of Allegiance. **Public Comments** – Written comments were submitted regarding parking situation on N. Rutland Avenue and the person thinks it should be no parking from the Mobil station north to the edge of the village. Kuhlman mentioned Public Works will look at this issue again at their next meeting.



**President's report** – Bruner welcomed Christian Allen to the board. He's been on Planning & Zoning for a few years. Bruner announced for the 11<sup>th</sup> year Brooklyn is a Tree City USA, courtesy of the Arbor Day Foundation. It is based on \$2 minimum per capita forestry budget.

**Groenier made a motion to approve minutes from April 8.** Olson seconded. Motion carried. Allen abstained.

**Senior Center update by Sue McCallum** – She's the representative to the Senior Center for the board. The Council on Aging had a pancake breakfast in January and Brat Bash is coming up. She thanked the clerk's office for getting it in the newsletter. Reaccreditation committee has completed their work, and reviewed policies and proposed changes. Their review was sent to the Village of Oregon board for input or approval. This happens every 5 years. There will be an onsite visit. The Oregon High School award is \$500 again this year. There were 15 submissions, and Sue is on the committee to review them. It is paid by the Council on Aging Funds. Oregon Village developed a pilot program to assist seniors getting to the library. It's on the same day as getting people to the food pantry. The new senior center building project has completed all surveys, which was part of the public input, they had listening sessions and people coming in to them. Their findings will go to the Village board on May 20. In conjunction with that project, they had a senior center municipal working group, and they've suspended those meetings with the project where it is, since all municipalities signed the contract. They will notify municipalities of any changes regarding the project. Rachel Brickner is available to come to meetings. Gehrmann ask about who is doing the Badger Talk, Women in Science. McCallum doesn't know. They have three new events this summer. In April was Tai Chi and a pop-up library in May at the senior center, and June there is ageless grace classes replacing the yoga for the summer. Gehrmann said they're always interested in getting young people interested in the field of bioscience. The board thanked Sue.

**SnoHornets Tractor Pull Labor Day Weekend** – Kuhlman went through the comments from public works, to work with them on parking and anything they need; the fire department will work on scheduling necessary people; and Deputy Grumke would like to see lighting in the parking area and will work with the group. Bruner noticed the dates are listed on the rain date line. Arndt said that was because the form wouldn't let her put it on the actual date line. **Berland made a motion to approve the event application for Brooklyn SnoHornets for August 30 through September 2 of this year.** Olson seconded. Motion carried. **Berland made a motion to approve the amplification permit for SnoHornets for Labor Day Weekend.** Groenier seconded. Motion carried. Sheri Arndt presented a donation to the fireworks from the SnoHornets. Bruner and the board thanked them. Bruner asked about the bands playing. Diamond and Lead on Friday, The Ramble on Saturday, SuperTuesday on Sunday. There will be a bag tournament on Friday. They're working on setting up pullers.

**Audit Report by Tara Bast and Monica Murphy from Johnson Block** – In the packets the board has a summary report (will be posted on village website). They were here in February performing onsite audit. They provide an opinion on the financial statements of the village. The report is in draft form, but they're essentially ready to issue the final report. They will issue an unmodified opinion, which is a clean financial statement opinion, which means they feel the financial statements are free of any material misstatements and in compliance with all the applicable standards for municipal financial reporting. Largest section is notes to financial statements and includes summary of accounting policies and how the financial statement is reported and additional supportive data. The main piece to look at is the budget to actual tables. They assist in filing other reports like the DOR financial report, and the water utility PSC annual report, and by July 1 TIFs have an annual report. They will be completing a final TIF audit for TIF 1 before September. Required audit communications to the board is pretty standard for smaller municipalities. There are communications about audit adjustments and internal accounting controls. They had a recommendation for IT system controls, to be reviewed on an annual basis. The following pages of the summary report include condensed general fund balance sheet, which is the main operating fund. It includes assets and liabilities, deferred inflows related to tax levy. The Village's general fund balance is shown in comparison to next year's operating fund budget. The Village has a policy to assign any fund balance to capital purchases each year, so that calculation comes out to 30% every year. They



show any excess over 30% is set aside for potential capital. There is a condensed version of the budget to actual comparison schedule. The amended budget for 2023 was an expected result of a decrease in fund balance of just under \$5,000. Actual results included an increase in fund balance of \$120,000. Next page of the summary is a two-year comparison of the other governmental funds from 2022 to 2023. There is \$361,800 at the end of 2023 that is considered assigned for future capital per the fund balance, which is an increase from last year of \$203,000. So it's a healthy fund balance. Pages 3 and 4 look at the water and sewer utilities. Water reported an operating loss of just under \$10,000, and sewer utility had an operating income of just under \$80,000. While the water utility had a net loss in operations, it had an increase in cash flow. The sewer utility also had an increase in cash flow. Pages 5 and 6 look at general fund expenditures over the last five years with a trend analysis – public safety and public works being the two largest for municipalities of the same size. Pages 7 and 8 are the same visuals but for general fund revenues. The largest source of revenue is taxes, followed by intergovernmental revenues or state-funded aids, shared revenue. Page 9 looks at the village's general obligation debt versus its capacity to borrow. State statute says the village can borrow up to 5% of equalized value, so allowable capacity is \$8.3 million and actual outstanding debt is just under \$3.8 million, so we're using 45-50% of capacity to borrow. Last page is a visual of the tax levy. This looks at the entire tax levy as a whole and what makes up levy of all overlying taxing districts. Village's portion is 35% average over the last two years of entire tax levy. Gehrmann asked on the debt service, he assumes that is all payments, not just interest but principal payments also. Bast said that is both, yes. She noted that page 9, the debt versus capacity excludes revenue bonds, which are considered secured by utility revenue. Gehrmann said when you look at sick leave, are they looking at future obligations or this is just the checking account balance. Bast said that's not part of their services in a financial statement audit, but as to what's the future liability of the village, that's an actuarial study. Gehrmann asked if they're just looking at the numbers, not that they're good or bad, but making sure the accounting is correct. Bast said correct, they're making sure financial statements are free of material misstatements and they're presented in accordance with accounting standards they're supposed to be presented with to issue an audit report. **Brusberg made a motion to accept the audit for 2023.** Berland seconded. Motion carried.

Kuhlman has two additional bills – one for the WET test and other is to Register of Deeds for filing of O&A corrected CSM. **Olson made a motion to approve bills as presented with addition of \$1,155 to Nile Expedite Solutions and the Register of Deeds for \$30.** Brusberg seconded. Motion carried.

Bruner said Christian Allen and Janeen Podgorski are changing positions on Planning & Zoning. There are some openings in committees. We need 2-3 people for Zoning Board of Appeals. Kuhlman said we have one pending variance to be heard by the Board of Appeals, so we need people on that committee. They are to be citizen members. Bruner said there are also openings on economic development committee. Kuhlman mentioned that we need to reassign Podgorski's committees – media, ordinance and economic development. Bruner asked for volunteer for ordinance committee. It meets about twice a year. Allen volunteered. Bruner asked for volunteer for media committee. It only meets a couple of times per year. Bruner asked Groenier to be on the media committee. Kuhlman needs some members on Board of Appeals for a variance that we just received and can't wait until the May meeting. Brusberg asked about putting fireworks committee on the list. Bruner said he doesn't have a roster yet, and it's not really a village committee. **Brusberg made a motion to provide the clerk authority to have a zoning board of appeals meeting if she can find candidates to fill the open spots.** Olson seconded. Motion carried. **Brusberg made a motion to approve the committees as adjusted.** Groenier seconded. Motion carried.

**Clerk's report** – Kuhlman attended a clerk's meeting last week and the main subject was alcohol updates. There are new licensing rules and regulations. There are new applications. They made it more clear what fermented malt beverages are. They have tobacco and vapor product licensing. One change that could possibly affect us is distilleries, breweries and wineries can get full liquor licenses for pop-ups – meaning if they want to be present at an event, they can get a full liquor license to be there for a day, etc. The application comes to municipality first for approval, if the municipality will allow them to be there, and then the application is sent to the state, and the state issues the permit. The municipality could deny but they would



have to be consistent. There are guidelines that the state looks at to approve them. A letter from Dane County Parks was passed out for their parks and open space update. There is a sheet regarding the maintenance of effort report due in July for fire and EMS. There is a sheet for revaluation of property taxes. We received this from the Green County treasurer, who received it from Forward Analytics, which explains the revaluation process. We will put it on social media and the website at the end of this year in preparation for next year. Open Book is May 23 from 4-6 p.m. and Board of Review will be June 11 at 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Village Hall. One member every year has to take the training course. Olson and Kuhlman are trainers and are doing training for area municipalities on May 1 and 8. Kuhlman noticed the website is missing agendas for earlier in the year, and other parts of the website are missing also. It's like the website reverted back to a few months ago, and she doesn't know why. She is slowly updating items again. Berland mentioned that not clearing the cache might have that effect. Kuhlman also mentioned the recreation committee had their own website that was operated by Brit Springer. Springer is no longer going to operate and control it. Kuhlman spoke with Hardy, and it was decided to put everything on the Village website for recreation.

Kuhlman mentioned we have about a **\$300,000 fund balance** assigned for capital project. She mentioned that we need to add more funds into the sick leave account. When someone retires, they can convert their sick leave to dollars to pay for insurance after retirement. We have about \$6,000 in there right now, and in the next few years there could be a couple of employees near retirement, and it could be about \$25,000 for each needed to pay out. It was decided to have a finance meeting in May to discuss that and village hall.

**Gehrmann made a motion at 7:23 p.m. to convene into closed session.** Olson seconded. Ayes – Groenier, Berland, Olson, Bruner, Gehrmann, Brusberg, Allen. Noes none. (Groenier left during closed session for conflict reasons)

**Gehrmann made a motion at 8:11 p.m. to reconvene into open session.** Berland seconded. Ayes – Berland, Olson, Bruner, Gehrmann, Brusberg, Allen. Noes none.

**Brusberg made a motion to proceed with an offer to purchase for the next stage of the business complex with the Georges based on the terms discussed in closed session.** Gehrmann seconded. Motion carried.

**Brusberg made a motion to proceed with the developer's agreement between the village and Gromor LLC based on what was discussed in closed session.** Olson second. Motion carried.

**Olson made a motion at 8:12 p.m. to adjourn.** Berland seconded. Motion carried.

Linda Kuhlman, WCMC, CMTW  
Clerk-Treasurer



# June

## 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3 PIYO 6 pm	4 Tires**, Oil & Battery Pick-up	5 Garbage & Recycling Yoga 6 pm	6 Bookmobile- Gazebo 6-730p	7	8
9	10 PIYO 6 pm Board Meeting 630 pm	11 Brush Pick-up <b>Board of Review 6-8 pm</b>	12 Garbage Yoga 6 pm	13 Bookmobile- Gazebo 6-730p	14	15
16	17 PIYO 6 pm	18 FOOD TRUCK NIGHT – Legion Park 5-8pm	19 Garbage & Recycling Yoga 6 pm	20 Bookmobile- Gazebo 6-730p	21	22
23	24 PIYO 6 pm Board Meeting 630 pm	25	26 Garbage Yoga 6 pm	27 Bookmobile- Gazebo 6-730p Community Lunch – Noon at Brooklyn Methodist Church	28	29
30					Exercise Classes held at Brooklyn Community Bldg	**\$ 10/Tire Contact Clerk's Office 608-455- 4201