

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

January 2025 Village News

Clerk's Office - 455-4201

Fax - 455-1385

PO Box 189, 210 Commercial St

Email: clerk@brooklynwi.gov

Police Department – 608-255-2345

102 N. Rutland Avenue

Email: grumke.merrick@danesheriff.com

Public Works Dept. - 455-1842

Fax 608-455-1501

102 Windy Lane

Email: publicworks@brooklynwi.gov



TABLE AND CHAIR RENTALS

As of Jan. 1, 2025, all table and chair rentals will require a \$100.00 deposit.

The rental agreement form can be found at the below link:

<https://brooklynwi.gov/forms-permits/>

\$5.00 per table

\$5.00 for 10 chairs

Please call ahead to verify availability at 608-455-4201.



Starting Immediately

Building Applications must be submitted online at
<https://www.generalengineering.net/forms-resources/>

For more information go to Village Website

<https://brooklynwi.gov/forms-permits/>

or call the Clerk's Office at 608-455-4201.

Snow Removal from Sidewalks

All sidewalks must be cleared of snow within 24 hours of snowfall ending. Snow may not be put into the street.



Snow Blowing or Shoveling Snow back into the road is not legal - Per Wisconsin State Statute 346.94 (5) PLACING INJURIOUS SUBSTANCE ON HIGHWAY. No person shall place or cause to be placed upon a highway any foreign substance which is or may be injurious to any vehicle or part thereof.

We ask that you be considerate and not place snow back into the road when cleaning your sidewalks/driveways. This causes a financial burden and can cause accidents with injuries.
Thank you for your help.



The owner or user of each mailbox shall, within twenty-four (24) hours after the end of each snowfall, remove all snow and ice which has fallen or accumulated in front of said mailbox, and shall remove the snow and ice away from the curb or area in front of the mailbox a minimum of fifteen (15) feet on each side of said mailbox.



**Keep snow and ice
3 feet away from
fire hydrants.**

In case of fire, firefighters need to be able to get to the hydrants quickly to protect people and property.

VILLAGE OF BROOKLYN ORDINANCE CHAPTER 32

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND

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

REGARDING WINTER PARKING

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

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

Sec. 32-87. - Winter parking.

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

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

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

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

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

Adopted by the Board of Trustees of the Village of Brooklyn, Wisconsin, this 12th day of June 2023.

Dog Licensing



All dogs five months and older, kept within the Village, must be licensed each year by January 31st. License fees for 2025 are as follows:

DANE: \$ 22.75 for spayed/neutered
\$ 31.75 for unaltered
\$ 21.25 Puppies -5 mo. (as of July 1) spayed/neutered
\$ 27.75 Puppies - 5 mo. (as of July 1) unaltered

GREEN: \$ 8.00 for spayed/neutered
\$ 13.00 for unaltered

You will need proof of current rabies vaccinations. Village Ordinance 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 person residing within a residence.

Cat's Do Not Need to be Licensed

VOTING BY ABSENTEE BALLOT VILLAGE OF BROOKLYN

Any qualified elector who is unable or unwilling to appear at the polling place on Election Day may submit a request to vote an absentee ballot to their municipal clerk. A qualified elector is any U.S. citizen who: will be 18 years of age or older on Election Day and has resided in the ward or municipality where they wish to vote for at least 28 consecutive days before the election.

The elector must also be registered to vote to receive an absentee ballot. Proof of identification must be provided before an absentee ballot may be issued*.

Making an application to receive an absentee ballot by mail.

Contact your municipal clerk and request that an application for an absentee ballot be sent to you for the primary or election or both. You may make a written application to your municipal clerk for an absentee ballot in person, by mail, by fax, by email or at MyVote.wi.gov. Your written request must include: 1) your voting address within the municipality where you wish to vote; 2) the address where the absentee ballot should be sent, if different from the address above; 3) Your signature; 4) A copy of your photo identification***The deadline for making application to receive an absentee ballot by mail is:**

5:00 p.m. on the fifth day before the election, **Thursday, February 13th, 2025** **

*Voters who are indefinitely confined due to age, illness, infirmity, or disability may not be required to provide photo ID. If this applies to you, contact the municipal clerk regarding deadlines for requesting and submitting an absentee ballot.

**Special absentee voting application provisions apply to electors who are indefinitely confined, in the military, hospitalized, or serving as a sequestered juror. If this applies to you, contact the municipal clerk regarding deadlines for requesting and submitting an absentee ballot.

Voting an absentee ballot in person

You may also request and vote an absentee ballot in the clerk's office or other specified location during the days and hours specified for casting an absentee ballot in person.

In-Person Absentee Voting Hours:

February 4th-6th (Tues.-Thurs.) 7 a.m. -5 p.m.

February 7th (Fri.) 7 a.m. – Noon, 1 p.m.- 4 p.m.

February 10th-12th (Mon.-Wed.) 7 a.m.- 5 p.m.

February 13th-14th (Thurs-Fri.) 7 a.m.- Noon, 1p.m. – 4 p.m.

Official Primary Ballot
Nonpartisan Office
February 18, 2025

Notice to voters: If you are voting on Election Day, your ballot must be initialed by 2 election inspectors. If you are voting absentee, your ballot must be initialed by the municipal clerk or deputy clerk. Your ballot may not be counted without initials. (See end of ballot for initials.)

General Instructions

If you make a mistake on your ballot or have a question, ask an election inspector for help. (Absentee voters: Contact your municipal clerk.)

To vote for a name on the ballot, fill in the oval next to the name like this: .

To vote for a name that is not on the ballot, write the name on the line marked "write-in" and fill in the oval next to the name like this: .

State Superintendent of Public Instruction

State Superintendent
Vote for 1

- Jeff Wright
- Brittany Kinser
- Jill Underly
- write-in:

Official Primary Ballot

Nonpartisan Office

February 18, 2025

for

Municipality and ward number(s)

Ballot Issued by

Initials of election inspectors

Absentee ballot issued by

Initials of municipal clerk or deputy clerk

(If issued by SVDs, both SVDs must initial.)

Certification of Voter Assistance

I certify that I marked or read aloud this ballot at the request and direction of a voter who is authorized under Wis. Stat. §6.82 to receive assistance.

Signature of assistor

For Official Use Only

Inspectors: Identify ballots required to be remade.

- Overvoted
- Damaged
- Other

If this is the
Original Ballot,
write the serial
number here:

If this is the
Duplicate Ballot,
write the serial
number here:

Initials of inspectors who remade ballot

PANCAKE BREAKFAST AND BAKE SALE

**Sunday, January 26
serving from
7:30 to 11:30 AM***



**OREGON AREA SENIOR CENTER
219 PARK STREET, OREGON
608-835-5801**

**\$10.00 for adults
\$4.00 for children age 3 to 10
Free for children age 2 and under**

**Menu: pancakes, sausage,
scrambled eggs, coffee, milk and juice**

Eat in or take out!

All

Welcome!



**Food is prepared by the members of the
Oregon/Brooklyn VFW Post #10272.
Baked items are donations from local
volunteers.**

**Profits used for the benefit of the Oregon Area Senior Center
*Dining Room and Bake Sale open until 12:00 Noon**

January 2025 News from Your Senior Center

By Rachel Brickner

As the holidays conclude and January settles into a routine, it feels like winter has really arrived. There are several subjects that often need to be addressed at this time of year, and the Senior Center staff is here to help you with them.

The high cost of utility bills at this time of year can be challenging for people on fixed incomes. If you are struggling with energy bills, please reach out to one of our case managers to see if you might be a good candidate for energy assistance. Even if you do not qualify for that, there may be other programs you do qualify for, which could put more money back into your pocket to help cover the utility bills.

There are generally a lot of viruses circulating in the winter. If you haven't been immunized against influenza, Covid or RSV, please talk to your doctor about which might be appropriate for you. It is not too late to benefit from vaccines this winter.

This is the time of year when many people start thinking about income tax preparation. We will not have any tax preparation volunteers at the Senior Center this year, but the case managers can refer you to places that will have tax assistance available.

It is very easy to fall on slippery pavements—be cautious about the surfaces you are walking on, and make sure you are wearing appropriate footwear. Walk like a penguin when outdoors on anything other than dry pavement.

If you prefer not to drive when the roads might be less than ideal, remember that the senior center offers rides to grocery stores, the food pantry, the senior center, and the library. Rides are also available to medical appointments. Call and ask for a case manager to schedule a ride for you. (Due to the way funding is distributed, transportation services are limited to people living in Dane County.)

Winter can feel like an isolating time of year. If you are feeling a touch of cabin fever, please consider coming to the Senior Center. There are many programs available, and the participants are very welcoming. It can lift your mood a lot to get out and be around other people. So, come shoot a game of pool, play cards, dominoes, or mah jongg, or watch a movie. Those are just a few of the opportunities available.

Finally, the cold winter weather often perks up people's appetites, making them hungry for bigger meals. For many, the work of making a big pot of comfort food doesn't make much sense for a solo household. Lunch is served here every weekday—but does require a reservation.

For any of these services, or further information, please call the Senior Center at 608-835-5801.



COMMUNITY POTLUCK

Thursday, January 23, 2025

At Noon

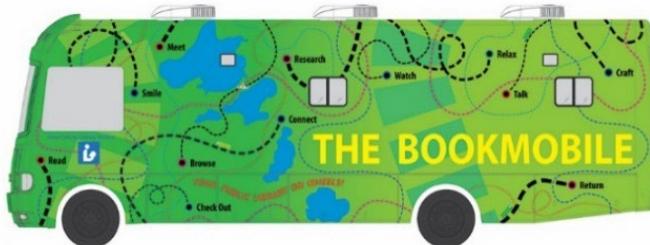
Brooklyn Methodist Church

Everyone - all ages are welcome.

Bring a dish to pass.

Table service and beverages are provided.

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.

Accurate Appraisal LLC – Educational Corner

New construction is only assessed on the percentage that is determined to be complete. Assessors don't set taxes; we are homeowners just like you. It's our job to set fair and equitable assessed values based on fair market value.

DID YOU KNOW?

ACCURATE

If you build a house in 2024 and it is only partially completed as of January 1, 2025 the assessor will visit to determine the percentage completed.

If the property is 50% complete, the improvement value for 2025 will be assessed at half of the full market value.

Before we visit, **a notice will be mailed to you**. If construction is not complete, the assessor will update our records and mark the property for a visit the following year. Once construction is complete the full market value will be added the following year.

\$350,000 x 50% = \$175,000

Full Market Value Complete Partial Assessment

Brooklyn Village Board Meeting Minutes
December 9, 2024

On December 9, 2024, President Mark Bruner called the Village Board meeting of the Village of Brooklyn to order at 6:30 p.m. Trustees present were Dan Olson, Mike Brusberg, David Berland, and Mike Gehrmann. Trustees Christian Allen and Chris Groenier were absent. Also present was Tim LeBrun, Mark Mortensen, Jeff Groenier, Public Works Director Leif Spilde and Clerk-Treasurer Linda Kuhlman. Pledge of Allegiance. No public comments.

Berland made a motion at 6:31 p.m. to enter into closed session. Olson seconded. Ayes – Brusberg, Gehrmann, Bruner, Olson, Berland. Noes – none. **Berland made a motion at 7:28 p.m. to come out of closed session.** Olson seconded. Ayes – Brusberg, Gehrmann, Bruner, Olson, Berland. Noes – none. **Brusberg made a motion to approve the offer to purchase with Tim LeBrun.** Gehrmann seconded. Motion carried. **Brusberg made a motion to approve the proposed outline with the modest edits discussed in closed session tied to the property purchase with Mortensen and Groenier.** Gehrmann seconded. Motion carried.

President's report – Bruner would like to express sincere appreciation to the fire/EMS department for the parade yesterday. It was awesome and he heard lots of positive feedback. He provided to the board and posted a letter stating he's not running for reelection. He thanked the staff and board and former trustees who made the job a pleasure, and he appreciates them and learned a lot. He'd like to pass along happy holidays to staff and trustees and residents.

Brusberg made a motion to approve the minutes of November 11. Berland seconded. Motion carried.

Kathy Pennington, Green County Supervisor, provided a year-end summary for Green County. It is incorporated at the end of the minutes.

Brusberg made a motion to approve all employees of the village carrying up to 40 hours of vacation into 2025. Gehrmann seconded. Motion carried.

Kuhlman explained the Strand task order was for the work needed to complete a traffic study for putting in a new road into the Business Park. **Brusberg made a motion to approve the Strand Task Order 24-01 with a start date as soon as possible.** Berland seconded. Motion carried.

Kuhlman reported that the new **village hall doorbell and electronic lock is now installed**. The president has keypad code for entrance. The board agreed codes are not needed for trustees.

Lighting inside and outside village hall – Spilde called Focus on Energy about the lighting inside village hall. They recommended contractors. We got bids to do all the lighting in the building to all LEDs and add outdoor lighting needed for parking lot and sidewalk between village hall and the next building. The cost savings is broken down in the NCLED bid. It will pay for itself fairly quick. In 2025 Focus on Energy is changing to 10-15% less than now. The total low price bid for the lights is \$13,785. Hill Electric, who wasn't on the sheet, is \$15,370. We received three bids, all about the same price. The nice thing with low bidder is they take care of all the Focus on Energy documentation. Brusberg said it can be funded out of fund balance created for village hall. **Brusberg made a motion to move forward with NCLED lighting not to exceed the \$13,785.** Olson seconded. Motion carried.

LiteWire tower outside Village Hall – Board discussed the tower and instructed Kuhlman to call LiteWire to come and check what is theirs. Kuhlman reported they offered to give us free service for the village hall. That would equate to less than \$200 per month. The board suggested they either move tower somewhere else or pay a rental fee. Brusberg suggested \$250 a month. Berland suggested \$500 per month plus utility costs and

have a signed agreement. **Brusberg made a motion to move forward with offering LiteWire the ability to rent tower space at \$500 per month to the village and come and locate their equipment in the village hall.** Berland seconded. Motion carried.

Gehrmann and Brusberg reviewed bills and saw no issues. **Brusberg made a motion to approve bills as presented.** Gehrmann seconded. Motion carried. **Olson made a motion to send end of the month bills out via email for trustees to look over and give response back for approval.** Gehrmann seconded. Motion carried.

Hotel Street project update – Board members had current plan for the project. Berland remembered a discussion that we would only put three parking spaces in front of the residential units to leave room around their driveway. Spilde reported that we met with three property owners to get details agreed upon. We agreed to the fence being 10 feet and the property owners will be involved and it will match dumpster fence and a fence around the Brooklyn Barn air conditioner unit. Snow removal for residence has not been solved yet. They push their snow onto the grass right now, but it won't happen with the fence. There will have to be another conversation. We might be able to move the fence back a little from the road, and he can put snow in the swale. Suggestions on where to put the snow. They will also put a gate up on their property at the same time. A few other items that were discussed at the meeting including meeting with property owner about shaping their entry so it drains properly. We need to look at changing the ordinance for snow removal to include all the concrete from road edge through the sidewalk. It should go through public works first. We discussed lighting and reflectors on lights so it doesn't shine into houses. Alliant has been contacted. We will add fencing to our air conditioner to look the same as others. Anchor Club will have eavestroughs that come down and under the sidewalk. We removed some trees and will remove a few more. The antenna was talked about. Brooklyn Barn/Farm 42 will give up entry on Hotel Street to gain another parking stall, and they agreed to lose the curb cut. He would rather have parking stalls and unload from the parking lot. Anchor Club will have enough distance for them to build an ADA ramp in front of the building instead of steps. All three we spoke with were happy with what we discussed. We are losing the curb cut in front of Gobles. Spilde will talk to Strand about bidding dates.

RFPs for Village Hall remodel – instead of doing one big project, we'll break it into pieces. We are looking for approval to go ahead with getting bids. We will still bring it to the board for approval in January. **Brusberg made a motion to approve taking three different RFPs for the village hall construction, flooring and plumbing.** Olson seconded. Motion carried.

Public Works/Utilities/EM – Spilde reported we **sold the F550** for \$78,000, and it was \$78,626 new in 2020. The 2024 truck just purchased was \$109,776. We had **two broken water mains** on South Rutland before Thanksgiving. There were two breaks, and one was repairing a clamp on a break from 2009. He reported 34% of all main breaks have happened on S. Rutland, and there is 2,100 feet of 6" main, and it was installed in the late '40s. Brusberg asked the cost to replace. Spilde said we would have to start with curb/gutter/sidewalk, storm sewer, sewer and water. The sewer lines are on both sides of the road, and we've already lined one side of the sewer line. Water main broke 14-15 times in last 30 years. Eight-nine years ago it was about a \$2-3 million project to redo S. Rutland. The complete reconstruction of Highway 104 was on the docket for 2027-2029, but it's not on there anymore. When it's back on the docket, we would have 4-5 years to do something. Brusberg asked if it's possible to put on the capital projects list and get an approximate present-day pricing. Spilde said it's something to start looking at. The **F150 truck is due for replacement** under our schedule, if we want to continue with that rotation. The low bid he received is the F150 through Ewald Ford of \$41,106. A Chevy from Symdon, which is local, is about a \$1000 more, but it's only 7 miles away versus 2 hours away to pick up the truck. Chevy resale is better. This truck is used more for running, so it will have the most miles, but they still use it for bigger hauling. Chevy price from Symdon is \$42,310. Ewald does not offer a Chevy. We have a replacement policy of every three years. Everything is still under warranty. **Brusberg made a motion to replace the F150 via Symdon with a Chevy truck.** Olson seconded. Motion carried.

Spilde reported that the **business complex water and sewer** is all in. Sewer passed the pressure test today and water will be tested tomorrow. **Sludge hauling permit**, the first phase went through. There were about 20

questions to clean up, but we are now officially licensed by the State of Wisconsin to haul our own sludge through a contractor on seven different fields. You will hear more about that in the future. We will start talking next year about **wastewater upgrade** next year. They made a giant improvement to water and SCADA system and mapping, and they got **new iPads** to take out into the field which have maps on them, and it's amazing how nice it is. Started **temperature study on the creek**. First **PFAS sample** on effluent was below the numbers they're looking for. Even though there are no limits right now, we're required to do sampling every two months at \$350 apiece, but we are under the limits. The number is .000 something is how low the potential number will be. Spilde went to **Dane County Emergency Management meeting**, and there's some fun stuff happening that we're going to be a part of, and Green County meeting is Wednesday, and he will incorporate Dane County and Green County together, and we'll be the pivot on some school stuff. Leaf pickup is completed. **Highway 92 project** should be bid soon. **Tree City** went through. Snow equipment is ready. The flags are down and Christmas decorations are up. Swept streets on November 19th. Mower replacement has been ordered according to budget. They removed some trees per contract.

Clerk's report – Financials showed total deposits at the end of November of \$396,433.28, and there was \$175,921.40 of final shared revenue and \$114,155.16 of loan proceeds reimbursement from the TID. Total withdrawals were \$317,481.36. Total in all accounts at the end of November was \$2,364,284.64. Board members received the consolidated Ehlers investment reports, and the revenue went back up. Other financials were handed out. Graphs were shown for budgets and taxes to go on the website and newsletter. **Railroad Street** court matter - the resident responded to the complaint. There is a scheduling conference in early January to set a court date, preferably at the end of February when Deputy Grumke is back to testify. Received **noncandidacy** paperwork for Berland and Groenier and Bruner. Sent out paperwork to a couple of people for trustee positions. Deadline is January 7, 5 p.m. to get paperwork in. Olson and Kuhlman went to **Government Finance Officers Association meeting** last week. They talked about accounting issues, preparing audits, record retention, PSC review of rates to make sure we're not out of compliance. DOR rep was there talking about innovation grants and maintenance of effort report. Small group discussions on expenditure restraint and levy limits, and whether you're big or small, everyone is in the same situation. That's why more and more go to referendums, because we're not getting it from the state. Talked about methods to raise levy limits, including tied to CPI or certain amount raise every year. **Tax bills went out last week**. Everyone's went up slightly, and it's because of the increase in Oregon School District. Bruner added every year he's been president, we've been able to lower the village's tax rate. **Website upgrade** is almost finished. We won't see a difference, but it's the background programming. Received information from Council on Aging. **New doorbell** is ready to go. **Green County Homeland Preservation Plan** was handed out to the board. Preliminary **SAFE security assessment** was given to the board. **First Impressions meeting** was November 13. There were about 30 some people of Green County Leaders training program present. They walked or drove through the village with first impressions. The UW rep is putting together a final report and will come to the meeting January to go over it. No really negative issues. Signage was discussed and people couldn't find us online, and some people couldn't find parks. Discussion on other items. Brusberg suggested when we get the final report, to read the recreation committee into it. The **insurance renewals** came in last week. One thing they asked is if we want to change the liability from two million to five million. It adds \$1,390 to the premium. Other benefits we get from the league are the nurse triage and telehealth, which we haven't used. They have HR pre-loss legal services, which we have asked a few questions. There is free Lexipol software, which is more safety-oriented, but we use the free grant searching through Lexipol. There are crisis advisory services, cyber protection, online classes and short webinar, and they've added a reduced price on a public safety hiring company and a mental health toolkit. Do we want to raise the liability. The liability coverage is bodily injury, property damage, etc. With property damage and health care, items cost more these days. It's all the property in the village and all public space. Total premium last year was \$44,310 and this year \$44,849, and if we raise it will add another \$1,390, so around \$46,000. **Brusberg made a motion to move forward with increasing liability insurance coverage to \$5 million.** Gehrmann seconded. Motion carried.

Fire/EMS Protection District – Kuhlman said she went to the meeting. Allen was at the meeting, but isn't here at the board meeting. They discussed the **maintenance of effort** report, and Marx is trying to get legislative change. Talked about **2% dues funding**, and when Albany failed to do their's last year, all the municipalities involved with them did not get any of their funding. Fire departments need to work together. They discussed a **new defibrillator** for the new ambulance. They received bids from Stryker and Zoelle. They preliminarily approved getting Stryker, 6 year payment plan at \$10,500 per year, which includes maintenance. The bottom line is it came to the same as if buying outright, but this way it's not a major expenditure all at once. It will include trade-in of current for about \$5,000. They approved preliminarily because their current bid only goes until November 29, so if we were going to get a different amount after that, they were authorized to purchase. Otherwise, it will go back to the board in December to confirm final pricing. They talked about different options for the **old ambulance**. They are talking about possibly using it as a transport ambulance, but the chief is supposed to be getting them a business plan before going forward with that. Brusberg said they talked about it in October, and besides the business plan, how would they tackle the staffing. Olson said that was his concern, because we can't get enough staffing now. Brusberg said the third concern is they planned to take some equipment from the old ambulance for the new one, but if going to run two ambulances, you need to outfit both, and then you don't get a trade-in value for the old one. Brusberg said until conversations start with Oregon Fire District, we shouldn't talk about any new ventures. Brusberg asked what our board thinks. Gehrman thought they were trading in the old ambulance, and if we can use some of the stuff off the old one, it's stupid to have a used ambulance that's going to need maintenance and everything else for transport. It's going to be an interesting business model to make revenue off of that. Brusberg said they're trying to compare to Lakeland, but that's Milton and Edgerton that combined and merged departments which gave them additional staff and apparatus, so they had more feasibility. We're not in that position. We're a small department that already struggles with staffing. Gehrman agreed and stated we should be focusing on the primary mission, not something that could be done by a larger place. Bruner agreed, not sidework. Kuhlman stated they went through **fire and EMS reports**. Chief Barber put together an **apparatus replacement schedule**, showing what they have. Their calls are in their reports. Next **meeting is December 18** at 6:30 p.m. Brusberg thanked Allen for filling in that night.

Brusberg made a motion to postpone any action on hiring a commercial realtor. Olson seconded. Motion carried.

Olson made a motion at 8:45 p.m. to adjourn. Gehrman seconded. Motion carried.

Linda Kuhlman, WCPC, CMTW; Clerk-Treasurer

County Supervisor Annual Update Village of Brooklyn Dec 2024

I'm sorry I'm unable to attend this meeting. Town of Brooklyn Town Board meets at the same time and I'm there.

1. Taxes: For 2025, the County taxes went up 4% over last year. The levy is \$24,565,506
 - The increase is from wages and fringe benefits. Operating expenses remain unchanged.
 - In 2024, Property values increased over 8% throughout the county as compared to 2023. As a result, the Mil rate is lower at 3.705 as compared to last year (from 4.058) per thousand of equalized value.

-What this means to the Village of Brooklyn: Village of Brooklyn's equalized values increase 16.44% (to 46,987,100) compared to 9% last year. Therefore, Village residents will likely see an increase in taxes to Green County.

- As the State continues to impose mandates, without funding, the County Highway Dept is forced to do more with less. The Wheel tax increased \$5 for 2025 (\$635,00 in 2024 but will increase to \$810,475 for 2025) to help the Highway Dept offset some of their operation expenses.

- With costs going up particularly on highway equipment purchases, material costs for road construction and sheriff patrol vehicles expenses, future budgets may require County to obtain new funding through additional sales tax, short-term bonding or an increase in levy. (Currently, Green County has .05% additional sales tax which has been in place since Jan 2003)

-I continue to have concerns about the facilities at the Highway and Sheriff Dept. They are old, outdated and in need of expansion. There is a task force group at the County reviewing alternatives and possible solutions. Depending on the outcome, new facilities or renovations to existing facilities will impact the future funding at the county.

2. Wage Study for County Employees: Last year, the county completed a wage study (Oct – Jul; 10-month study) to review all positions and align them into 21 pay grades and 11 steps within each pay grade. The intent was to align pay and duties throughout the county, stay competitive to the market and competitive to neighboring counties (Rock, Dane and Lafayette County). It was completed in July. No employee took a pay cut.

3. Strategic Plan: A group of County Supervisors developed a Strategic Plan for the County. The intent is to prioritize services to be delivered to county residents and align resources to ensure high quality services into the future. 11 recommended actions came from the committee. I highlighted four actions I believe are critical as costs continue to go up and the county wants to attract and retain talented employees. They are:

Creating a GC Administrator position	Create an executive committee assigning current positions to the committee
Evaluate and reorganize county committees	Create a process to implement
Monitor and report on progress	Formalize an onboarding process for newly elected Supervisors
Train department heads on continual improvement process	Update the County's Comprehensive Plan
Evaluate the consolidation of departments	Add core competencies as requirements to all existing and new position descriptions
Maintain aggressive investments in cyber-security	

The County Board of Supervisors will vote on accepting the plan and actions on Dec 10.

4. Broadband: Green County, IT Dept, had a Broadband Coordinator for several months. Position is currently vacant. IT Dir has also left the County. Therefore, the Broadband Coordinator duties are incorporated as Project Manager under Green County Development Corporation (GCDC). As Town Chair, I'm working with an ISP to use Broadband, Equity, Access & Deployment (BEAD) Grant Program to provide a fiber to home internet option to residents. This grant will include some of Village of Brooklyn residents. I will keep the Village Clerk/Village Board posted as we progress through the grant process. (FYI: BEAD is part of The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law that provides programs and activities to communities through September 30, 2026. WI is receiving \$1,055,823,573 to improve internet for unserved and underserved locations)

What are your questions?

Linda: this question came up last year. I provided you the answer in case it comes up again.

The Village Board asked why can't the Oregon Senior Center provide rides to medical appointments for Brooklyn Green County residents.

I spoke with Anne, Oregon Senior Center & Amber, Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC), Green County.

Unfortunately, because of the funding structure, the Village of Oregon is unable to provide rides to Brooklyn Residents residing in Green County. However, residents can coordinate a ride through ADRC, Green County at 608-328-9499, www.adrcgreencounty.org. Amber informed me that there is a small co-pay for a ride (generally less than \$15). However, for those individuals unable to pay, ADRC will work around the cost on a case-by-case basis. ADRC also has vehicles for wheel bound residents. Amber mentioned that Green County will coordinate with Oregon Senior Center (Dane County) should a resident need a reoccurring ride like cancer treatment or dialysis similar as the meal delivery program. When the resident calls the ADRC, they should discuss this issue with the office.

Lastly, the **Great Dane Shopping News**, (delivered weekly) includes the ADRC Green County newsletter called "The Bridge" on a monthly basis. It is extremely informative for our Green County resident. Please let residents know to look for it. I received my December copy of "The Bridge" this past week.

February

2025

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