

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

## February 2025 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)



### 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.

**General Engineering Company**



*Engineers • Consultants • Inspectors*  
**www.GeneralEngineering.net**

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.

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**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 13<sup>th</sup>, 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 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> (Mon.-Wed.) 7 a.m.- 5 p.m.**

**February 13<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> (Thurs-Fri.) 7 a.m.- Noon, 1 p.m. – 4 p.m.**

Official Primary Ballot  
Nonpartisan Office  
February 18, 2025

1

**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

## February 2025 News from Your Senior Center

By Rachel Brickner

The high cost of housing continues to be an issue throughout Dane County and areas that border on it. For homeowners, the cost of property taxes, insurance, utilities and repairs can be daunting. For renters, the situation can be much worse, as renters have little to no control over the amount they will be charged for rent.

The two case managers at the Senior Center report that housing related issues are one of the concerns they deal with most frequently. Many older adults feel that they are being priced out of their housing situations and turn to us for help. Fixed incomes and rapidly rising costs do not mesh well, and the case managers can help with the financial conflicts that develop when housing gets too expensive.

Many older adults qualify for some form of public assistance. A thorough review of one's financial situation can reveal that someone might qualify for help with their Medicare Part B premium, or they might qualify for energy assistance, or another benefit. Money saved in one part of the budget is money that is available to cover costs in another part of the budget.

Some people are very reluctant to share financial information with the case managers. That is rather like being afraid to tell your doctor what all of the symptoms are that you are experiencing if you do not feel well. The case managers are professional people who are required to keep all such information confidential. They do not share what they learn with anyone unless they are given written permission to do so.

Other people feel uncomfortable accepting public benefits, saying they are not needy enough. There is no shame in using a safety net that has been created to help those who qualify—odds are good that the older adult has paid taxes for years that supported that safety net program.

Communities are trying to help address the need for affordable housing, including for older adults. The case managers at the senior center are familiar with local housing opportunities and can help guide people towards options that exist in the community. They can sometimes help people gain access to housing that is not available to people who call on their own, without a professional referral. (With some affordable housing situations, you will need to work with a professional—like the senior center case managers—to get an appointment to be evaluated to see if you qualify financially.)

If you or someone you know is struggling with a housing issue, please reach out to the case managers at the senior center. Call 608-835-5801 and ask to speak with either Carol or Noriko. Case management services are free to qualifying individuals.

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## COMMUNITY POTLUCK

**Thursday, February 27, 2025**

**At Noon**

**Brooklyn Methodist Church**

Everyone - all ages are welcome.

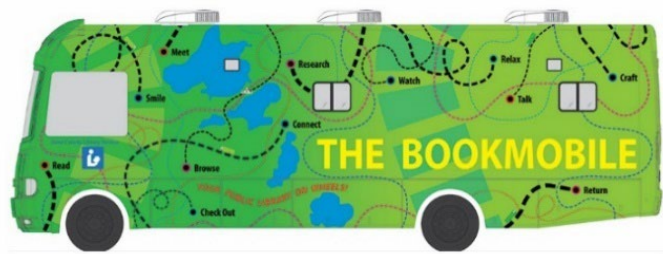
Bring a dish to pass.

Table service and beverages are provided.



The picture generated by Gemini

The Dane County Library Service Bookmobile - Thursday evening stops (6-7:30p) at the gazebo at Hotel and Commercial Streets. Library users are encouraged to place holds for items they would like or to use the library's Browse Bundle service: <https://www.dcls.info/browsebundles> to have library staff select titles for you.

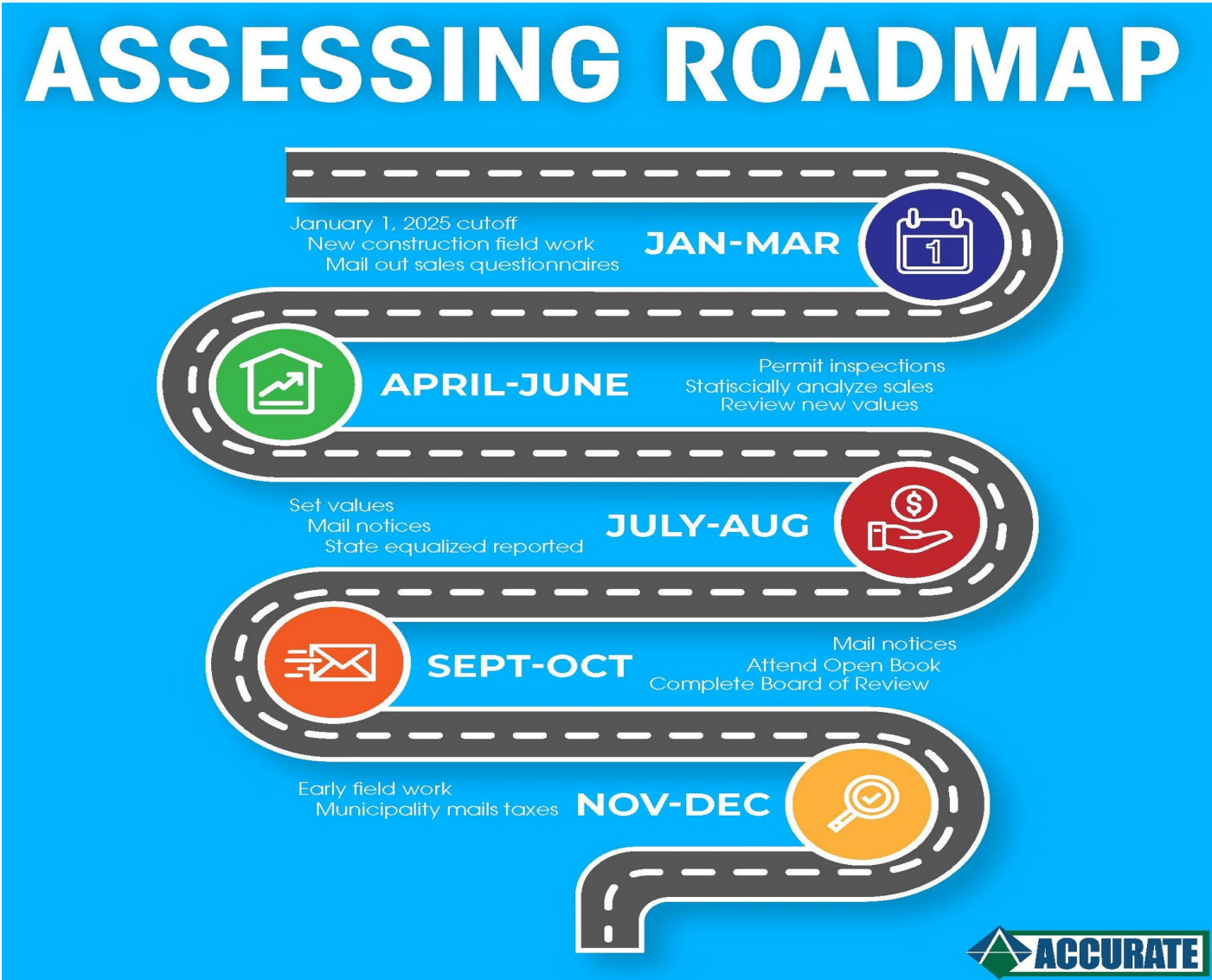


Contact Dane County Library Service with questions at 608-266-9297 or [bookmobile.dcl@gmail.com](mailto:bookmobile.dcl@gmail.com).

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Accurate Appraisal LLC – Educational Corner

2025 Assessment Timeline **!!**  
This timeline will help you better understand what assessors do throughout the year. Assessors will be using sales up to January 1, 2025, to determine values for this year.  
Assessors aren't tax collectors, or even tax setters, we're just fellow taxpayers trying to make everything fair and equitable.





# SAVE THE DATE

## **“CONNECT AND GROW”**

(Make connections with other businesses to help grow your own)

Brooklyn Area Chamber of Commerce presents a

## **BUSINESS FAIR**

### **MAY 6, 2025**

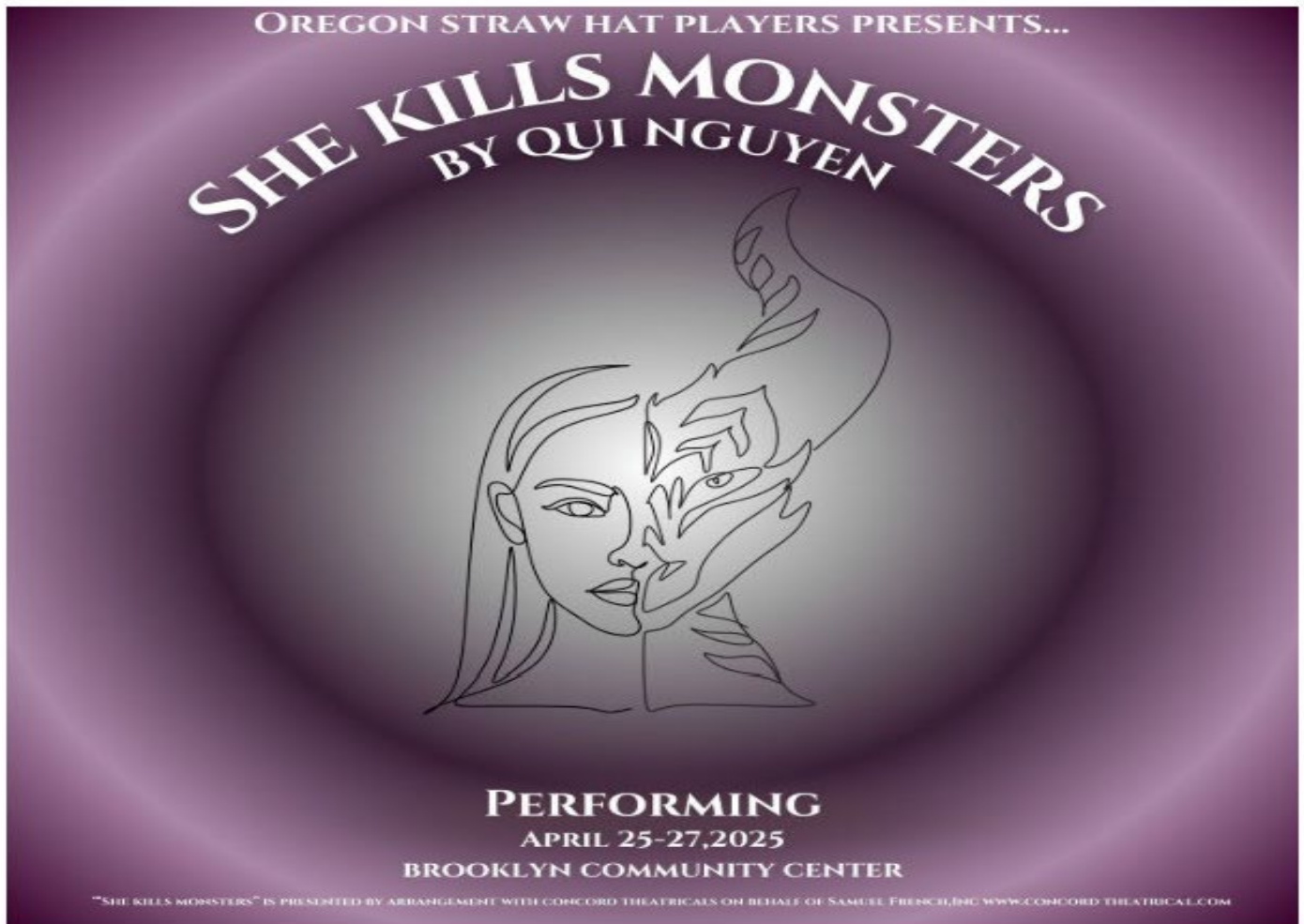
### **4:30 – 6:30 p.m.**

@Brooklyn Community Building  
(door prize, food, activities for kids)



COMING IN 2025

OSHP is excited to announce our upcoming 2025 season!



## **She Kills Monsters**

by Qui Nguyen

directed by Evelyn Becker

A comedic romp into the world of fantasy role-playing games!

April 25th-27th, 2025 at the Brooklyn Community Center

Auditions February 16th, 17th, & 18th

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### **Brooklyn Village Board Meeting Minutes**

**January 13, 2025**

On January 13, 2025, 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 (via phone), David Berland, Christian Allen, Chris Groenier, and Mike Gehrmann. Also present was Clerk-Treasurer Linda Kuhlman. Pledge of Allegiance. No public comments.

**President's Report** – Bruner wished everyone a happy, safe, and healthy new year. He's not running for reelection. They have one candidate on the ballot for president, Mike Brusberg, and Jake Bachim for trustee on the ballot. There will be two write-in candidate spots open.

**Brusberg made a motion to approve the minutes of December 9.** Olson seconded. Motion carried. Allen abstained.

**Brusberg made a motion to accept Strand Task Order 20-22, Amendment 2.** Gehrmann seconded. Motion carried.

Kuhlman explained that she received an email from **Verizon about possibly putting an antenna** on the tower in Legion Park or on the water tower. They are still looking at the feasibility of both locations. Discussion. Berland asked if they're considering cellular or home internet antennas as well. He'd like to see additional competition in the village for home internet. Bruner said no motion is needed yet. We will wait to get more information.

Olson reviewed bills and didn't see anything. Gehrmann said he had his questions answered, and they were fine. **Olson made a motion to approve bills as presented.** Gehrmann seconded. Motion carried.

Kuhlman said she gave the board's request of \$500/month lease payment to Litewire, and they countered with \$100. A technician came to the building and showed us where the lines come into the building. Gehrmann asked how many customers it affects. Discussion on their service. Gehrmann hates to be the bad guy and have people lose service. Brusberg asked what consumption of electrical they're using. Kuhlman said it would be hard to tell. Brusberg suggested waiting until next meeting and see how many customers they serve. **Olson made a motion to postpone any actions on counteroffer from Litewire for tower lease.** Brusberg seconded. Motion carried.

Kuhlman explained we received a small claims judgment against Selene Homes. They haven't paid, so we paid the \$5 fee to have the case docketed, which from her understanding means that if they try to sell property in Dane County, this will show as a lien against the property. Since they haven't sent in their financial statement, per the judgement, we could ask for a contempt order from the court. This would require us to re-serve paperwork, which is about \$200. We're not sure what that would mean. Groenier doesn't see a point in spending more money. Discussion. Brusberg asked about bringing it back in a few months. Kuhlman said as far as she knows there is not a deadline for filing for contempt. Olson and Gehrmann don't think it's worth spending more money. All board members were in agreement. **Allen made a motion to revisit in March if the judgment hasn't been settled.** Groenier seconded. Motion carried.

**Clerk's report – Financials** for December. We had deposits of \$1,501,871.40. \$1,332,153.77 was collected from taxes paid. We had a total withdrawals of \$157,607.80. We ended the year with \$3,708,548.24 in all accounts. Bruner asked what percentage of taxes have been paid. In Green County we collected 57.44%, which is up from last year's 34%. Dane County we've collected 49%, compared to 55% collected at the same time last year. Allen asked what the comparison is in the counties. Kuhlman said we have more population in Dane County. Gehrmann asked what percentage we typically end up collecting. Kuhlman said we collect in the 70-80% by the end of January, and the balance is paid in July. We get the balance of our taxes in August, regardless of whether everyone has paid. If someone doesn't pay by July, the county pays us our total due, and they are responsible for collecting the unpaid. All financial reports were handed out. Our year-end fund balance report was handed out. Received email from **Green County Development Corporation**. They are working with a digital media launch team from Monroe High School that will be touring Green County and doing some social media posts, and they asked if we'd be interested if they came to Brooklyn. I told them to give us a call. GCDC also has their annual banquet in March. It's \$50/person. **Stoughton Health** sent us their 2024 annual report. **Hotel Street project** is moving along and will be going out for bids at the end of January, due back by mid-February. Berland asked how the engagement with the property owners has been going. Kuhlman said it's been good. We talked to the resident next door about the fencing, and we decided on vinyl fencing at 8 feet high, which is fine with them. The garbage/recycling area will be chain link. Berland asked which side of the swale the fence will be. Kuhlman said the east side, closest to the property line. We sent out bids for **remodeling inside the village hall**, with a February 6 due date. Once we know the construction schedule, we will send out bids for flooring and painting. Construction will start after April 1 election. **LED lights** started to go in today, and they're also putting wall packs outside. There is a public works meeting on Monday, January 20, and a Planning & Zoning Commission meeting on Tuesday, January 21.



**Fire/EMS District Update** - Brusberg reported they voted to move forward with purchasing a **new defibrillator**. It will time with outfitting the new ambulance. They tabled a decision on the old ambulance. They weren't ready to have that discussion. The new ambulance isn't ready to go into service. It will be discussed this Wednesday. They went through and made line by line adjustments in the **fire budget**. They are putting the overage in a separate account, so as needs happen over the year, they can pull funds. If they don't need to, they can consider that when they look at the 2026 budget. It was about \$20,000 from the various accounts. They'll see that reflected as part of the financial statements. Gehrman asked when the **new ambulance** is coming on line. Brusberg said they have received it, so maybe February-March. Final purchase price was around \$275,000, so that ended up being covered by the grant and unallocated balance and a little from the 30% reserve. The sale of the existing ambulance will recover some of those funds. He thinks that's where they're leaning. There was a lot of discussion on maintenance of effort and 2% dues and the ramifications of not receiving 2% dues. Financials were handed out, but the secretary had to leave early.

**Gehrman made a motion at 7:04 p.m. to convene into closed session.** Allen seconded. Ayes – Allen, Gehrman, Bruner, Olson, Berland, Groenier, Brusberg. Noes – none.

**Berland made a motion at 7:21 p.m. to come out of closed session.** Gehrman seconded. Ayes – Allen, Gehrman, Bruner, Olson, Berland, Groenier, Brusberg. Noes – none. No motions from closed session.

**Groenier made a motion at 7:21 p.m. to adjourn.** Gehrman seconded. Motion carried.

Linda Kuhlman, WCPC, CMTW  
Clerk-Treasurer

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**Brooklyn Village Board Meeting Minutes**  
**January 27, 2025**

On January 27, 2025, Clerk Kuhlman called the Village Board meeting of the Village of Brooklyn to order at 6:30 p.m. Trustees present were Dan Olson, David Berland, Chris Groenier, and Mike Gehrman. President Mark Bruner and Trustees Mike Brusberg and Christian Allen were absent. Also present was Clerk-Treasurer Linda Kuhlman. Pledge of Allegiance. No public comments. No president's report. Trustee David Berland volunteered to chair the meeting.

**Olson made a motion to approve minutes of January 13, 2025.** Gehrman seconded. Motion carried.

**Gehrman made a motion to approve the letter of support for Frontier Communications BEAD funding as presented.** Olson seconded. Motion carried.

Olson reviewed the bills and found sales tax of \$8.53 on the Johnson Tractor invoice and also found tax on the US Cellular bill for a screen protector purchase. Kuhlman will send tax exempt to Johnson Tractor for future purchases, and the US Cellular was a one-time purchase at a store. Gehrman also reviewed. **Groenier made a motion to approve bills as presented.** Gehrman seconded. Motion carried.

**Public Works** – Olson stated Spilde will come to February 10 meeting to go over all public works updates. The board needs to look into the sewer connection fees and water impact fees. We did the last water impact study in 2010. The lawn and snow ordinances they reviewed need to go to the ordinance committee. Kuhlman asked if the board could review them and make changes, because she'd like to approve them at the February 24 meeting when we have a public hearing scheduled for a rezoning. The board discussed the possible changes.

Suggestions made included adding language that the village will make best effort at notification or will put up a door hanger. The board decided to postpone further discussion until the February 10 meeting when more members are present.

**Clerk's report** – The audit will be February 17 and 18. The 18<sup>th</sup> is election day, but we're not anticipating a lot of voters that day. It's a primary, and the only race is the State School Superintendent. Absentee ballots will be mailed tomorrow, and in-person voting starts February 6. The Ladopolous development is still being discussed. They contacted us for some additional information. She sent an email to Town of Rutland informing them that we've been approached. We were contacted by Bertram Wireless. They do internet services more in northern Wisconsin, but they are looking to get a BEAD grant to put fiber into Dane County. They are looking for a support letter from us to go with their grant application. She will put it on the next meeting agenda and get additional information. **Olson made a motion to approve the clerk going to Ehlers Wisconsin Public Finance seminar in Wisconsin Dells for a total not to exceed \$425, for the class, lodging and mileage.** Gehrmann seconded. Motion carried.

Kuhlman stated that the Chamber is having Mapping Specialists create a new village map for the Brooklyn Guide that they are producing. She asked if the board wanted to share the cost so that the village can also use it on the village website and possible other uses. Berland stated because of the website being accessible now, can we get an electronic jpg of the same map and what would the cost be. Kuhlman will find out and bring it back to the next meeting. **Olson made a motion to postpone splitting the cost with the Chamber until we have further information.** Gehrmann seconded. Motion carried.

Litewire responded to the board's request of \$500 per month lease payment, with \$100 per month. **Groenier made a motion to keep the lease payment offer at \$500.** Olson seconded. Motion carried.

**Olson made a motion to postpone the fire/EMS district update from Brusberg until the February meeting.** Gehrmann seconded. Motion carried.

**Planning & Zoning Commission** – Olson said they discussed some zoning ordinances, and the short-term rental application is for airBnb and VRBO short-term rentals. They were looking for a basic rental permit to fill out and send to the village so we are notified they are doing that type of rental. Berland asked about how to enforce the information in the application. He said it's a great application. They would like to send back to Erin at zoning and look to see what kind of ordinance we need to back up the application. Olson said this application came from several different communities. Olson also stated the Business Park added new boundaries, so that needed to be added to the ordinance. And the driveway ordinance is cleaning up language to close the loophole for gravel driveways, to make sure it's a solid surface and not dirt. Kuhlman will add the ordinances to the next meeting for review.

**Groenier made a motion at 7:02 p.m. to adjourn.** Gehrmann seconded. Motion carried.

Linda Kuhlman, WCPC, CMTW  
Clerk-Treasurer

# March

2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4 Tires**, Oil & Battery Pick-up  Ballet 4-630p	5 Garbage Yoga 6 pm	6 Bookmobile- Gazebo 6-730p	7	8
9	10 Board Meeting 630 pm	11 Ballet 4-630p	12 Garbage & Recycling Yoga 6 pm	13 Bookmobile- Gazebo 6-730p	14	15
16	17	18 Ballet 4-630p	19 Garbage Yoga 6 pm	20 Bookmobile- Gazebo 6-730p	21	22
23	24 Board Meeting 630 pm	25 Ballet 4-630p	26 Garbage & Recycling Yoga 6 pm	27 Bookmobile- Gazebo 6-730p Community Lunch – Noon at Brooklyn Methodist Church	28	29
30	31				Exercise Classes held at Brooklyn Community Bldg	**\$ 10/Tire Contact Clerk's Office 608-455- 4201