

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

## June 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)

### **Brush Pickup**

### **2nd Tuesday of each month**

Please place the brush on 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.





## NO mowing into the streets.

Per Village Ordinance Section 24-93 (c) Regulation of dumping - *Protection of street, public places, and water.* No part of the contents of or substance from any sink, privy, cesspool or drywell, nor any manure, garbage, ashes, refuse or other waste shall be thrown by any person or persons, or be allowed to run or drop upon or remain in any street or public place, nor shall the same be thrown into or allowed to fall or run into any of the water surrounding said village save through the public sewers.

### Village Ordinance 24.57 – Regulations of Lawns

(a)(1) *Public nuisance declared.* The village board finds that lawns which exceed six inches in length on lots or parcels of land within the village adversely affect the public health and safety of the public in that such lawns tend to emit pollen and other discomfoting plant particles, constitute a potential fire hazard and constitute a safety hazard in that debris can be hidden in the grass, interferes with public convenience and adversely affects property value of other land within the village. Therefore, except with prior application and issuance of a natural lawn permit from the village, lawns shall be maintained to a height not to exceed six inches in length. Any lawn on a parcel of land which exceeds six inches in length in the absence of a natural lawn permit is hereby declared to be a public nuisance.

### Accurate Appraisal LLC – Educational Corner



If your Board of Review is after June 9  
Be sure to know the importance of the following:

	Actual	VS	Estimated
Reveiwng Values	Moderate		High
New Construction	Moderate		Very High
Parcel Count	Low		Low
TID/TIFF	High		Very High
Due Date	After Board		June 9
Permits	Low		High



The Municipal Assessment Report (MAR) is an official document submitted annually by the assessor to the Wisconsin Department of Revenue (DOR). It provides a summary of all real estate and personal property assessments within the municipality for the current assessment year.

The MAR includes:

- Total assessed values by property class (residential, commercial, agricultural, etc.)
- Total number of parcels per class
- Changes from the previous year
- Any new construction, demolitions, or exempt properties
- Use-Value and Agricultural Forest conversions

This report plays a key role in ensuring statutory compliance and helps the DOR determine the equalized value for the municipality.

# Summer Library Program June 1 - August 15



People of all ages are welcome to help Color Our World at the Oregon Public Library this summer!

## Registration NOW Open!

### Be entered into a DRAWING by registering on or before June 15!

- Read to Me SLP participants can win \$20 in **Chamber Bucks**  (one winner)!
- Children SLP participants can win \$20 in **Chamber Bucks**  (two winners)!
- Teen SLP participants can win \$25 Kwik Trip gift card (two winners)!
- Adult SLP participants can win two ticket vouchers for any date and play at **American Players Theatre**  (two winners)!



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.

The Bookmobile's Summer Reading Program returns to Brooklyn in June! There will be crafts in the gazebo and weekly prizes for meeting reading goals!

**Sign up begins on June 26.** (No Bookmobile service June 19

in observance of Juneteenth Day.)

The Bookmobile is a mobile public library that visits the gazebo at the end of Hotel St every Thursday year-round from 6-7:30 with books, audiobooks, magazine, movies, and music for all ages.

Visit [dcls.info](https://www.dcls.info) for more information or email [bookmobile.dcl@gmail.com](mailto:bookmobile.dcl@gmail.com) with questions.

**All Classes are held at the Brooklyn Community Building**



## **Current Class Schedule: Wednesday - 6:00pm Yoga: Slow Flow**

Registration Forms can be found at the link below:

<https://brooklynwi.gov/classes/>



## 2025 Summer Youth Recreation

The 2025 Summer Recreation Program is a 5-week program that runs Monday through Thursday. Children who live in Brooklyn are welcome to spend time in this program for a safe place to have fun, socialize and learn a little during the summer months. Activities include t-ball, arts & crafts, snacks and even a few fun field trips. We look forward to another great summer and meeting all of the children interested in the program.

Once your child has signed in for the day, they will not be able to leave the program unless they are picked up by a parent/guardian or the Recreation Coordinator has been notified.

A drink and snack will be provided daily. We would be grateful if each family would send a snack on the first day of attendance - enough for 40 children. (graham crackers, pretzels, cookies, fruit snacks).

### Dates & Time:

5 week session - Mondays-Thursdays  
July 7th-August 7th 2025 (1-4pm)

### Age Range

5 -12 years old

(We require that children have attended kindergarten to join. Please contact us with questions about this)

### Cost of Program:

\$50 Per Child

(\$25 for each additional child in your family.  
Field trips are an extra cost)

**\* In order to be guaranteed a t-shirt for your child(ren) we MUST have registration in by Friday June 27th, 2025.**



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

www.brooklynwi.gov  
www.Facebook.com/BrooklynRecWI  
www.Twitter.com/BrooklynRecWI



JOIN US for our ANNUAL  
**FALL ARTS & CRAFTS FAIR**  
 Saturday, August 30th  
**9am-3pm**  
 Location: Brooklyn Community Building  
 Support Your Local Businesses

*Food Truck Night*

*3rd Tuesday of the Month*

*May through September*

*Starts at 5pm - Legion Park*



**June 2025 News from Your Senior Center**

By Rachel Brickner

The Senior Center has two case managers on staff that help people with a variety of issues. You can speak with them without it costing you anything.

The case managers spend a fair amount of their time helping people with they call “public benefits”. There are a fair number of supportive programs available for older adults, some of which have financial eligibility requirements.

Case managers are trained to help people determine whether they qualify for various programs—that can range from FoodShare to Low Income Subsidies to help pay for prescription drug insurance costs. There are a variety of options available, and the financial eligibility requirements differ from program to program.

Case managers can help people enroll in programs and also help with the re-enrollment process when it comes time for that.

Case managers also frequently work with housing issues. This can encompass everything from dealing with a challenging landlord situation, to figuring out how to make a home more accessible to meet current needs.

Transportation is another area that case manager’s address. Older adults may find themselves in need of a driver to get to an appointment, or a way to get to the grocery store, for example. That is a need that case managers work on and connect people with the resources necessary to get them where they need to be.

Case managers help people who fall prey to scams, or who simply wonder if something is a scam. They help families and older adults with issues that can result from dementia or mental health concerns.

If you are an older adult, or concerned about an older adult, our case managers are a great resource. Reaching out to them costs nothing and can provide a wealth of information. If you would like to connect with a case manager, please call the Senior Center at 608-835-5801 and ask for a case manager.



# COMMUNITY POTLUCK

Thursday, June 26, 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.

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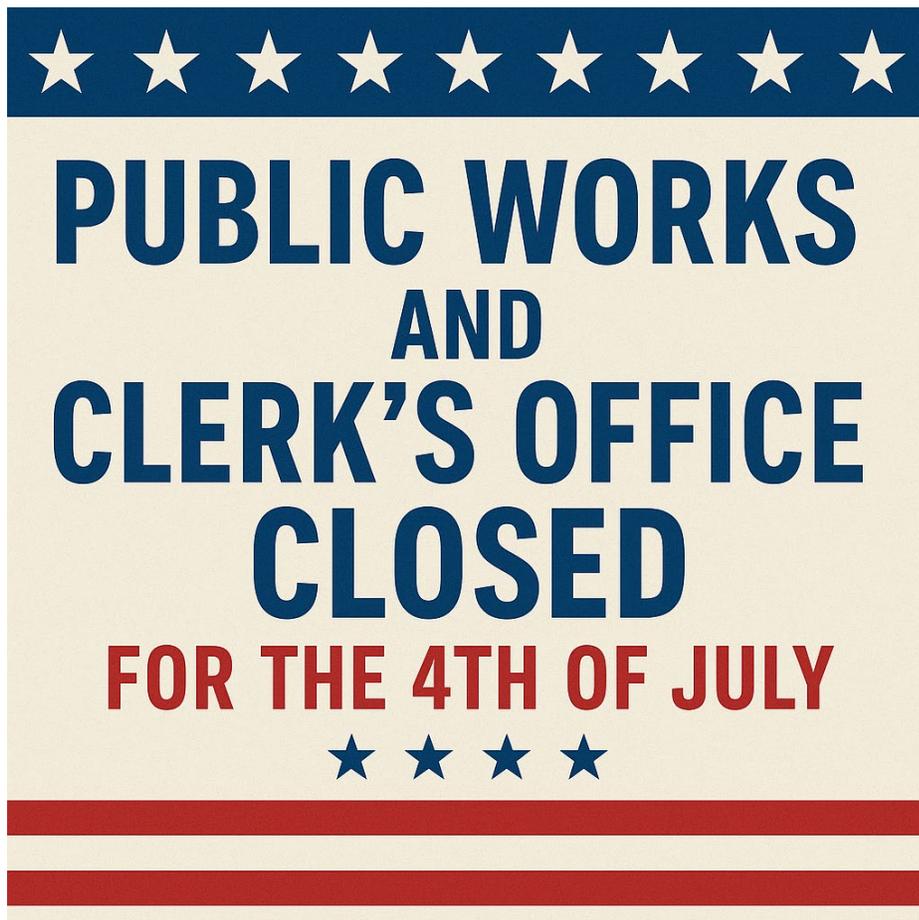


Image created by ChatGPT

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Join Extension Green County for a  
**Community Conversation** on  
**Large-Scale Solar Projects**  
in Green County

**Tuesday, June 24, 5–8 p.m.**

Turner Hall

1217 17th Avenue, Monroe, WI

**Thursday, June 26, 5–8 p.m.**

New Glarus High School Commons

1701 2nd St, New Glarus, WI

**Please RSVP, and  
make your voice heard!**

Use the QR code, or visit  
<https://go.wisc.edu/qngl9h>



**Questions?** Contact Victoria Solomon,  
Community Development Educator with Extension Green County  
at [victoria.solomon@wisc.edu](mailto:victoria.solomon@wisc.edu) or (608) 328-9440.



**Renewable  
Energy Siting  
& Engagement  
for Tomorrow  
(RESET)**

- Learn about renewable energy in Wisconsin
- Share your questions and opinions about large-scale solar in your community
- **Free food, drinks, and child care provided!**



**Extension**  
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON  
GREEN COUNTY

*This event is sponsored by RESET, a UW-Madison Extension project to engage Wisconsin communities in large-scale renewable energy projects, funded by a Department of Energy grant.*

*Photos: OneEnergy Renewables*

*The University of Wisconsin-Madison Division of Extension provides equal opportunities in employment and programming in compliance with state and federal law.*

# JOIN US FOR WISCONSIN FARMERS UNION DAY CAMP!

HOSTED BY:



South Central  
Farmers Union

UNITED TO GROW FAMILY AGRICULTURE

**WHEN:** Thursday, June 27th from 10am-2pm

**WHERE:** Still Point Flower Farm  
W886 State Road 92, Brooklyn, WI 53521

**WHO:** This event is geared toward children ages 7-11. Members & non-members are welcome to attend!

**WHAT:** *Please, bring your own lunch!* Activities can include Skits & Silly Songs, Group Games, Lesson Plans. Small Group Activities, Field Games, and Crafts. There is no fee associated with WFU Day Camps.

For more information, please visit  
[WisconsinFarmersUnion.com/Events](http://WisconsinFarmersUnion.com/Events)



For questions, please contact

Elizabeth Yost, Camp Co-Manager  
715-382-0921 [camp@wisconsinfarmersunion.com](mailto:camp@wisconsinfarmersunion.com)

# Green County CLEAN SWEEP

Program to dispose of Agricultural and Household Hazardous Chemicals

2025 One Day Program!

Wednesday, August 6, 2025  
Noon–6:00pm

## Collection Site:

Monticello Recycling Center  
406 North Main St.  
Monticello, WI 53570

### Guidelines:

- **Agricultural Products**—Farmers can dispose of up to 100 pounds for free.
- **Household Products**— Homeowners will be able to dispose of up to 100 pounds for free.
- A testing fee may be charged for unknown chemicals if amounts are greater than 5 gallons or 50 pounds.
- Participants will need to sign in when bringing in products. No pre-registering is needed.
- All items should be properly identified.
- Proof of Green County residency is required.
- We reserve the right to reject any item that does not meet the intent of the program. Materials will only be accepted by authorized personnel on Wednesday, August 6, 2025.
- Businesses may dispose of hazardous materials for a fee through Veolia Environmental Services.

### Examples of Items Accepted

- Home Products
- Insecticides
- Old Fertilizer
- Weed & Feed Products
- Mercury
- Oil Based, Marine, Tractor, Auto or Lead Paint
- Herbicides
- Fungicides
- Wood Preservatives
- Low Pressure Pesticide Gas Cylinders
- Cadmium & Lithium Batteries
- Small LP Gas Tanks
- Prescription drop off

### Examples of Items Not Accepted

- Explosives—Firearms or Ammunition
- Radioactive Material
- High Pressure Compressed Gas Cylinders
- Freon 11 and 12
- Biological, Infectious or Medical Waste
- Latex Paint
- Fluorescent Tubes
- Waste Motor Oil, Antifreeze



For additional information, call the Green County Land and Water Conservation Department at (608) 325-4195

Or Email [todd.jenson@wi.nacdnet.net](mailto:todd.jenson@wi.nacdnet.net)

# KEEP YOUR COMMUNITY SAFE USE A SHARPS CONTAINER



Used sharps are hazardous waste. When not discarded properly, they can cut and infect other people. Protect your community by always discarding your used sharps in a sharps disposal container.

**DO NOT**  
throw loose sharps  
in the trash



**DO NOT**  
put sharps in  
recycling



**DO NOT**  
flush sharps down  
the toilet



**KEEP OUT**  
of reach of  
children



## FREE SHARPS CONTAINERS FROM GREEN COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH

### Pick Up a Container

Pick up a sharps container from our office at N3152 WI-81, Monroe, WI 53566.

### Dispose of Sharps

Dispose of needles and lancets in the container.

### Return It

When you're finished with the container, return it to Green County Public Health to be disposed of.



(608) 328-9390



[gcpublichealth.org](http://gcpublichealth.org)



[info@greencountywi.org](mailto:info@greencountywi.org)



**The Brooklyn Dairy Queen Crown was passed to Miranda Mortensen at the Methodist Ice Cream Social on June 5<sup>th</sup>. Miranda is the daughter of Lori & Kyle Mortensen.**



**Village Board Meeting Minutes  
April 14, 2025**

On April 14, 2025, President Mark Bruner called the Village Board meeting of the Village of Brooklyn to order at 6:30 p.m. Trustees present were David Berland, Mike Gehrman, Mike Brusberg, Dan Olson, Chris Groenier, and Christian Allen. Also present were Tom Eithun, Nate and Jordan Compton, Madelyn Buell, Public Works Director Leif Spilde, Deputy Merrick Grumke, and Clerk-Treasurer Linda Kuhlman. Pledge of Allegiance.

**Bruner convened public hearing to discuss Ordinance 117-1013 temporary dwelling structure.** No comments. **Berland made a motion at 6:31 p.m. to close public hearing.** Groenier seconded. Motion carried.

**Public Comments** – Tom Eithun lives at 100 Lincoln. He has a fence next to the new parking lot area, and the parking lot will be within 3 feet of that and we’re not putting a fence up there. He wants a fence up against there. He has a 100-pound german shephard. He doesn’t want people throwing things into his yard. He wants his dog and fence protected. He talked to Seitler, who said they’re putting a fence on his side, and he talked to people working there, and there is no fence on the backside. It’s going to be open. He doesn’t want people throwing things up against and over his fence. If anybody is going to destroy the fence or anything, he would charge the village to fix. Allen asked how high his fence is. Eithun said it’s 6 foot. He put it in. Bruner said we appreciate the input, and the board will take it under advisement to discuss at the next meeting. Board thanked Eithun for bringing it to our attention. No other comments.

**President report** – Bruner said it’s bittersweet. He thanked everyone. It’s been a pleasure working with everyone. He thanked Leif and public works and Deputy Grumke and the clerk’s office. He said it’s been a great board to work with.

**Olson made a motion to approve minutes of March 24.** Gehrman seconded. Motion carried.

**Chicken request** – Nate and Jordan Compton on Bowman Street have lived there for 4 years. They would like to have more than the 4 chickens per ordinance. Madison has an 8 limit, Stoughton is 6 and Belleville is 6, Oregon upped theirs to 10. With higher egg prices, most places are okay with a larger number of chickens in town. It would be strictly hens. Berland asked how many they want to have. They are asking for 8. Jordan said they have their application with the state. Allen said they need to go through the permit process. Gehrman said when they did the ordinance, they picked 4 because it was reasonable at the time, and given Brooklyn is a unique spot, with big and little yards, and the coop so far away from property line and certain size. Grumke doesn't recall any complaints. Nate said his coop is enough for 8. Buell said Madison has up to 120 square feet for 8. Berland would like to do exceptions first by address until we update the ordinance. Buehl said she has a plastic coop on wheels to move around the yard. Allen asked if she has capacity for more. Buehl has capacity for 10 and would like 10. They want a certain kind that you can't get except in a bunch. Allen thinks 8 is a reasonable number and we can look at the ordinance. Groenier suggested moving to ordinance committee to rewrite the actual ordinance, but do we want to do exceptions now. **Berland made a motion to allow up to 8 chickens at 102 Bowman and 203 S. Kerch. Olson seconded.** Motion carried. Board thanked them for coming to the board. Buehl said they did a whole review in Oregon with all kinds of information. Olson said they will look at it through the ordinance committee.

**Brusberg made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-06, amending the 2025 budget.** Berland seconded. Ayes – Allen, Brusberg, Gehrman, Bruner, Olson, Berland, and Groenier. Motion carried.

**Hotel Street alley** – Kuhlman said the attorney and Combs have suggested doing an assessor survey of the whole block and have property lines established. It is a process that will involve a public hearing, and all property owners need to sign off on the property lines. **Berland made a motion to adopt Resolution 2025-07, assessor's plot for Hotel Street block.** Groenier seconded. Motion carried.

**Ordinance Chapter 12, Fire protection enforcement ordinance - Berland made a motion to approve amendment to Ordinance Section 12-3 to include "or law enforcement" in the first sentence.** Gehrman seconded. Motion carried.

**Ordinance Chapter 8, Business licensing and regulation to remove coin operated machines - Berland made a motion to approve amendment to Section 8-3 of the code.** Groenier seconded. Motion carried.

**Ordinance 117-1013, Temporary Dwelling Structures** – Suggestion was made to change language after dwelling unit to "for no longer than 7 days per month unless approved by the village board."

**Berland made a motion to approve Ordinance 117-1013 with the amendment types per request.** Olson seconded. Motion carried.

**Gehrman made a motion to approve the fee schedule as presented.** Allen seconded. Motion carried.

**Refinancing loan** – Kuhlman said we will need to decide by the first meeting in May about refinancing. She hasn't received all the information yet. **Olson made a motion to postpone the refinancing of the loan due June 18 until the next meeting.** Berland seconded. Motion carried. Brusberg asked if we can get a quote from Summit. Kuhlman said Summit and UW Credit Union don't loan to governments. Berland said at least we asked.

**US cellular tower lease** – **Berland made a motion to reassign the lease to USCC Wireless Holdings pursuant to this letter.** Gehrman seconded. Motion carried.

**Extra-territorial request on Country Meadow Road in Town of Oregon** – Berland said it's within a mile and half of village limits. Olson sees no concern. **Olson made a motion that the board has no concerns on the extra-territorial land division in the Town of Oregon on Country Meadow Road.** Groenier seconded. Motion carried.

**Fireworks** – Bruner got packet from Spielbauer with pricing. Does the board want to continue the fireworks this year. Allen said yes. Brusberg asked if we have a committee. Last year they talked about a committee being formed. Bruner said recreation doesn't want to do it. Gehrman said we need someone to run it and take care of it. Brusberg is not allowed to do any fundraising due to his main job. Olson said if we want to continue to have fireworks, they need to plan in advance. Brusberg asked if any interest from anyone in village. Allen said the best way to get it out there is by Facebook or other means. Gehrman suggested sending something out, and would Bruner be willing to be point of contact. Bruner said a down payment would have to be made first or second week of June. Allen said he's enjoyed the fireworks, not sure of cost versus reward. He would be happy to be on committee. Bruner said people who come comment on great show. Groenier it's a good thing. Gehrman said he would be point person, if we send something out to see how many people are interested and have time. Berland doesn't like fireworks. He thinks they're a fire hazard and not particularly fun. Olson doesn't see them because of being with the dog. Brusberg suggested a form letter to prior sponsors. Board is entertaining the idea of doing fireworks but need volunteers. If we don't get volunteers, it won't happen. Bruner will write posts and will put Gehrman as contact.

Olson reviewed invoices. On page 8 Speedee delivery, it's only down twice but there are three invoices. 3<sup>rd</sup> one needs to be put in register. **Olson made a motion to approve the bills with the correction to the Speedee delivery from \$86.02 to \$129.03.** Brusberg seconded. Motion carried.

**Strand Traffic Study for Business Complex** – Kuhlman said original quote was \$15,000. The state is making us do an additional reporting from Highway 92/14, so it's an additional \$3,000. **Brusberg made a motion to approve doing the traffic study and to get done as soon as possible.** Groenier seconded. Motion carried.

**Public Works** – Spilde thanked Bruner from public works and fire/EMS, and as a resident. His support as a village president is top notch. **Water** -- shut running water off March 21. **Sewer** – lift station in business park is in waiting for electronic components, and it's pretty normal. Had a couple rodents in wastewater lines but it's taken care of. Sewer machine repair wasn't as financially bad as he thought. March 15 power outage at treatment plant. They found the problem. WET test was done March 31 and passed. It's a very complex, very expensive test, and only 2 labs in country do it. Per state, all lab equipment is tested. O&A has their own permit through DNR for wastewater, so they compare results. Gehrman asked what the permit is for. Spilde said zinc, but they're required to test monthly for BOD, etc. We're watching for zinc. The state is watching for everything else. They're noticing it at their sample but not at the plant. No issues with them. If community is under 10,000, DNR does the enforcement. New nitrate test started this month. No comments on it yet. Wastewater permit cycle, we owe DNR letter for plans and procedures for disinfection. There's a lot of stuff coming from sewer plant. **Emergency Management** - nothing. **Streets** - had 24 events plowing and salting; normal is 31. Plowed 7 times and normal is 14. Hotel Street project will be here tomorrow doing prework for underground. They're finding all sewer, water and gas mains before they start digging. The old bank driveway and everything will be at grade. On Wednesday plan on north side ripping concrete out. They have a couple bigger projects, so they want to really try to put emphasis on this project and get it done with two possibly three crews. Strand will have onsite inspector here all the time. It was made clear to go to contractor through Strand but there is already talk from property owners. Spilde talked fencing with contractor on Friday. Early on we talked about putting fence but there already is a fence and building, and at that spot there will be a dumpster. The stormwater swale will be there also. His fence is a really nice fence. Street sweeping was done. Smithfield and Legion bathrooms are both open. Smithfield has other work to be done. Brian is taking a six-day seminar to become a DNR community tree institute graduate to get a tree expert on staff. Stormwater inlet-outlet inspection was done. Doing work at Legion with pickleball players, and volleyball court is being taken out.

**Stormwater policy** – Spilde said the recommendation from DNR is to have policy in place and procedures. They took photos of inlets and outlets to have on file. **Brusberg made a motion to approve stormwater inspection policy.** Olson seconded. Motion carried.

**Clerk's report – Financials** for March - we had \$105,942.10 in deposits and \$269,017.34 in withdrawals. \$131,042.50 was for a loan payment. So we total in all accounts of \$2,766,598.43. She's still looking at taking a couple of accounts to One Community Bank. She's keeping a fund balance on village hall remodel amounts. Handed out investment information. **Election results** from April election – 653 total voters, 466 in Dane and 187 in Green. 64% of village voted – 65% in Green and 61% in Dane. **Village hall remodel** has started. The initial destruction is done, and they'll be mudding drywall and painting end of this week. The pillar is load-bearing so it has to stay. They're a little ahead of schedule. The glass in the entryway is intact and the counter stays down, so we are keeping that and will do a little work inside to cover it up. Sergenians bid was for the Subtle style, which is the tighter weave and little thicker, the higher quality. So we went with them and picked out a carpet. We tested a few more spots in the carpet for asbestos, which were fine. But there is a small section that has 9x9 tiles and needs to be abated. She is getting quotes. Heard from **Groenier** and we should get an offer later in the week, so possibly we will need a meeting next week. Had another company interested in a couple acres. There is about 1.2 acres of the 2.3 acres of the area south of Northern Metal that are fine to develop on right now. **Board of Commissioners of Public Lands** has our request for loan. We haven't heard back yet. We have all information to **Wisconsin Surplus** for auctioning furniture. She added safe doors in the basement. **Railroad Street** hearing date is set for July 25. June 4 is cutoff for the foreclosure, so we will wait. Copy of **GEC report** on 110 Hotel Street was handed out. She has called Alliant to look as well. Spilde said Speedway is going to set up vibration test along those properties also while they're digging. The state approved **Act 235** regarding judicial privacy. Any judicial officer can receive confidentiality on their home. A request has to go through the state if they want their information kept confidential. We would have to make sure their name isn't listed and couldn't give information on open records requests. Counties are working on it also. She has been discussing with **computer company** to go with voice-over IP to take phone calls through the phone. Clerk's office will try it first. April 28 Kuhlman is not available, which would **be second meeting** date. If we get an offer from Groenier/Mortensen, can meet Monday or Wednesday and meet at 5 p.m. Kuhlman thanked Groenier and Bruner for being on the board and it was great working with them.

**Groenier made a motion at 8:03 p.m. to adjourn.** Olson seconded. Bruner thanked everyone again. The board also thanked Groenier and Bruner for their service. Motion carried.

Linda Kuhlman, WCPC, CMTW  
Clerk-Treasurer

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**Village Board Meeting Minutes  
May 5, 2025**

On May 5, 2025, President Mike Brusberg called the Village Board meeting of the Village of Brooklyn to order at 6:30 p.m. Trustees present were David Berland (arrived late), Mike Gehrman, Dan Olson, Jake Bachim, Todd Klahn and Christian Allen. Also present was Clerk-Treasurer Linda Kuhlman.

Klahn made a motion at 6:30 p.m. to go into closed session 6:30. Gehrman seconded. Ayes – Allen, Klahn, Bachim, Olson, Gehrman, and Brusberg. Noes – none. Berland not present for vote.

Klahn made a motion at 7:13 p.m. to reconvene into open session. Bachim seconded. Ayes – Allen, Klahn, Bachim, Olson, Gehrman, Berland and Brusberg. Noes – none.

Berland made a motion to accept the modified tower lease agreement with price increase of 2% per year and other modification suggested by the attorney. Gehrman seconded. Opposed – Klahn. Motion carried.

Klahn made a motion to approve purchase agreement with modifications made in closed session. Olson seconded. Motion carried.

Klahn made a motion at 7:14 p.m. to adjourn. Bachim seconded. Motion carried.

Linda Kuhlman, WCPC, CMTW  
Clerk-Treasurer

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**Village Board Meeting Minutes**  
**May 12, 2025**

On May 12, 2025, President Mike Brusberg called the Village Board meeting of the Village of Brooklyn to order at 6:32 p.m. Trustees present were David Berland, Mike Gehrman, Dan Olson, Jake Bachim, Todd Klahn and Christian Allen. Also present was Tara Bast from Johnson Block, Sheri Arndt and Trenton Diehl from Brooklyn SnoHornets and Oregon SnoBlazers, Deputy Merrick Grumke, Clerk-Treasurer Linda Kuhlman.

**Public Comments** – On behalf of the Brooklyn Area Chamber, Kuhlman thanked everyone who came to the Business Fair on May 6.

**President’s report** – Brusberg stated this being the first official meeting as the new board, he thanked in advance for those newly elected on their opportunity to serve, Todd Klahn, Jake Bachim, and David Berland. He thanked everyone else for their willingness to participate for the next year. One groundwork item, there’s a lot of things going in the village, and he wants to be mindful of pressure from residents or business owners to be able to offer perspective and opinions and potentially have to go to action quickly. He’d like everyone to be mindful of the chain of command, so if action is needed or you’re lacking context in historical significance of what’s taken place, reach out to him, Spilde or Kuhlman. When we need to go to action rather quickly, where because of project we need to get moving, reach out to him and use him as a resource so he can get in touch with Kuhlman or Spilde and can go from there. Otherwise, if it’s something Olson needs to be aware of from a public works perspective, he can be informed also.

**Berland made a motion to approve minutes from April 14.** Olson seconded. Motion carried. Bachim and Klahn abstained.

**Brooklyn Labor Day** – Trenton Diehl and Sheri Arndt were present. Kuhlman said fire and public works comments are in the application. If Deputy Grumke has any police comments, he’s here today. Diehl said there are no changes for this year. Grumke said it will be same staffing as previous. **Berland made a motion to approve special event application for the Brooklyn Labor Day Truck and Tractor Pull.** Klahn seconded. Motion carried. **Klahn made a motion to approve sound amplification permit.** Bachim seconded. Motion carried. Diehl stated on behalf of the committee they have a couple donation checks – one to Brooklyn Recreation and one to the Village. They appreciate the village’s support and look forward to another successful year. The board thanked them.

**Fencing around project** – Eithun stated he was here at the last meeting and doesn’t want people throwing stuff over his fence for his dog to get or writing on his fence. Brusberg said they did look at the plans, and as it pertains to his property, we can share the diagram of the project. There is going to be a dumpster with a fence there as a barrier around the dumpster. Allen said there is no parking in the spot directly adjacent to that part of the parking lot. Eithun asked if there will be trash cans for people to put items in. Brusberg said only the dumpsters in that area. There might be something on Hotel Street. Eithun said we’ll have to wait and see. Brusberg said if there is an issue, to please contact clerk or come to a board meeting.

**2024 audit presentation by Johnson Block** – Tara Bast introduced herself. The board introduced themselves. Audit is in draft form but ready to finalize. Kuhlman emailed the draft audit to the board. Bast went through the summary report. (The summary report can be found on the website on the budget page) The parts of the audit are table of contents; independent auditor’s report, with an unmodified opinion; financial statements of government-wide, reported on full accrual basis; fund financial statements – general fund and each of the self-balancing funds and then water/sewer statements; notes to financial statements with financial policies and footnote disclosures; required supplementary information and supplementary information which includes budget to actual and required schedules for WRS schedules and life insurance. Other reports they do are Department of Revenue financial report to calculate state aids; the Public Service Commission report for the water utility; TIF district annual report to DOR. There are also required audit communications to village board. It’s the standard communications they’re required to provide. There’s nothing out of the ordinary. Their recommendations are pretty standard. If anyone wants additional information, contact her. They talked with Kuhlman about operational things, internal controls. Biggest thing in smaller municipalities is oversight from the board, and understanding the functions and knowing where the weaknesses in internal controls are so there is some oversight.

Page 1 is a condensed version of the general fund balance sheet. It shows assets and liabilities, and deferred inflows are related to tax levy, and then what’s left over is fund balance. When they talk about health of general fund, they look at fund balance. Cash doesn’t tell the whole story. This is the biggest benchmark when looking at general fund. Fund balance consists of nonspendable, assigned and unassigned. Nonspendable is an advance to TIF district. As that is repaid, nonspendable goes down and unassigned fund balance goes up. Assigned fund balance has detail on page 2. Large portion is per the village policy where at the end of every year any dollar amount over 30% is set aside for capital projects. Budget to actual comparison is at the bottom of the page. One of the comments was looking at if there are additional budget amendments at end of the year so the categories are in line to reflect any changes not known until end of year. Page 2 is comparison of rest of governmental funds; ending fund balance at the end of the last two years, referencing TIF 1 closed. Pages 3 and 4 are water and sewer utility. Water had a net loss and sewer had net income, includes depreciation, which is a non-cash expenditure. Cash flow is another way to look at it from operating, capital, and investing activities. Water had decrease in cash of \$75,600, sewer had decrease in cash of \$116,857. Next pages 5 and 6 show general fund expenditures over the last 5 years based on expenditure category. Pages 7 and 8 are same look but for general fund revenues. Largest source of revenue is property taxes, then intergovernmental revenues. Page 9 looks at general obligation debt versus capacity to borrow. Under state statutes municipalities can borrow up to 5% of equalized value, and so our ability to borrow is \$9.3 million. Actual debt outstanding at end of year was \$3.6 million. What doesn’t count against that is note anticipation note and short-term borrowing are not included. Page 10 looks at how tax levy breaks out. The village’s portion of tax roll is 28% over the last two years. Local schools is always the largest. She asked if there are any questions. Bast said water and sewer assets from TIF assets are captured in water and sewer. Gehrmann asked on page 3 on water and sewer, are we running at a loss on water and sewer this year? Bast said it’s a decrease in cash flow, in operating cash. She said the sewer utility did put money into investments, into something other than cash, and put in CD, so for purposes of cash flow it has to be 3 months. If the maturity dates are longer than 3 months, it’s pulled out of decrease. It’s still cash in sewer utility, and it’s there to draw on. Kuhlman said water was mostly for the well repair done last year, and Berland suggested water main breaks also. It was over \$120,000 for the well. Bast said there was a simplified rate case last year for partial year, and we should look at that every couple of years. They recommend looking every year to avoid having a big increase down the road. Brusberg said the decision was made in the last couple of years to take idle cash and put it to use. Ehlers is managing a portion of those cash assets and locked some in with CD to capture additional interest earnings. The board thanked Bast. Brusberg asked if there is anything she’d recommend to focus on as a board. Bast suggested looking at budget amendments and talking through it. We don’t need to look at individual lines but if whole category is starting to reach being over budget, that’s when you talk about fund balance to carry over. Klahn noticed sick leave pay went up, are we funding that sick leave balance. Kuhlman explained that

employees can accumulate up to 960 hours through lifetime, and board decided previously that if you retire from the village, you can convert sick leave hours into health insurance payments. So we are trying to take extra fund balance money every year and put in a separate account, so when it gets to the point someone is getting close to retirement, we have money to fund it. Bast said there are new governmental accounting standards that changed the method for calculating and accruing compensated absences and in most cases it included increasing liability, so financial statements it has increased for most of her clients because of new standard. Kuhlman said in the next month, we can talk about putting more into that account.

**Fencing north edge of project** – Berland said he doesn't think it will be an issue. He would be in favor of a motion to defer conversation on this item until construction is complete to see if anything is happening. Olson said there are no parking stalls near there because that's stormwater retention. Brusberg said unless there are any concerns, we will monitor it. If anything comes up, the board can reconvene.

**Lighting on Hotel Street** – Brusberg stated the suggestion and guidance that has been given to Spilde and Kuhlman, whatever we're doing let's do something that will last. There was an event that if we were to lay conduit, that allows us flexibility to tweak lighting down the road versus the way it's set up now. What we approved previously was for savings. Klahn knows they nixed lighting because of the expense. If lay conduit, you can pull wires for lighting in the future, you just need to cut out the squares for a light box. If you don't, you disrupt the rest of concrete. Brusberg said when presented to us as part of master plan, it was in excess of \$140,000-150,000. The focus was to bring budget down. Klahn doesn't have a problem with not doing it, but have the conduit so it can be done in the future. Brusberg said that option wasn't discussed. Allen asked if we just have standard lighting now, and this was excess eliminated. Brusberg said the conduit gives us more flexibility. The numbers are within our contingency. It was around \$20,000. He gave the go ahead to get it done. Allen asked if they will do an as-built or put a tracer wire in there for the future. Discussion on ways to mark conduit to find it in the future. Board asked to have Spilde see what the design is. **Allen made a motion to approve conduit and looking into ideas discussed.** Klahn seconded. Motion carried.

**Committees** – Discussion on who to put on which committees. Public Works added Klahn and Bachim. Berland on Media Committee. Gehrman on Recreation. Bachim on Planning & Zoning instead of Olson. Gehrman and Allen on Ordinance. Brusberg and Olson on TID Joint Review Board. Brusberg said bring back TID review board later in the year. Brandon Arndt, Amanda Shippee, Brock Burnard and Sandy Glasier on Board of Review. Gehrman, Brusberg and Berland on Finance, and also on Personnel. Gehrman, Allen and Bachim on Ordinance. Brusberg is willing to continue on Fire-EMS Commission but will let board know if it's too much. Klahn said he would step in if it gets to be too much for Brusberg. Klahn asked when board looks at next year's budget, look at committee wages and board wages and review them. Kuhlman said Dane County Cities and Villages just came out with survey results on wages. **Brusberg made a motion to approve committee assignments as discussed.** Olson seconded. Motion carried.

**Secondary bank signer** – Brusberg said in the past we had a second person as a signer, and he was it. Now that he's president, we need a new person. Berland volunteered. **Brusberg made a motion to set Berland up for secondary signer on checks.** Gehrman seconded. Motion carried. Berland abstained.

**Meeting dates and times** – Kuhlman said there was some discussion in the past on starting at 6 and also thoughts on flipping the days. Bachim prefers Monday, Allen said Monday is fine, Olson is fine. Allen prefers 6. Berland can't do 6. Brusberg suggested leaving it on Mondays at 6:30 but evaluate as seasons change. Bachim and Klahn winters could go earlier but are flexible. **Brusberg made a motion to stay at Mondays at 6:30 but will evaluate start times as the seasons change.** Berland asked if there's any appetite to switch from 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Mondays to 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup>. There was no big opposition. Berland said stick with what we have but look at 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays. Brusberg said we can bring it back to first meeting in August. Berland seconded. Motion carried.

**President pay request** – Brusberg stated in order for him to have the president position, he can't accept the pay that exists. He would like to get paid per meeting and put a cap of \$150 each month. Anything above that he would like invested back into the community with some recreation facilities. If supportive, see what some things will cost, bring back to the board and move forward and do those things, like basketball hoops. The extra would never go to him, but would sit in a fund and go from there. Because of his day job he can't accept it. Klahn something like that, wouldn't that have to be rolled out every year. Brusberg said during his term he's doing it. He would look to spend dollars each year. Klahn is supportive. **Berland made a motion to accept Brusberg's proposal of reinvesting president pay back into community into a fund overseen by clerk and moderated by he and the board for his term as president.** Bachim seconded. Brusberg said it will never hit his paycheck. Motion carried.

**Refinancing Resolution 2025-09** - Berland asked if we can pay this off early if refinance short-term. Kuhlman said yes. Berland asked if we're going to close on the property in next 4 months. Kuhlman said hopefully. Brusberg said Lake Ridge offered an interest rate of 6.19% and One Community is presently 5.8%, and Kuhlman added currently we're paying 6.3%. Brusberg asked about prepayment penalty with One Community. Kuhlman said no. Berland is in favor. Klahn asked for explanation because he doesn't know the history. Berland said we did a short-term instrument when we bought the land. We thought we were going to get the deal done. The short-term is expiring, and so we need to refinance. Brusberg added that the proceeds from the sale will more than satisfy the loan, and the excess would go towards the TID. Berland said it would only be a couple hundred dollars difference. Kuhlman said current is with Lake Ridge. Bachim said we do a lot of business with Lake Ridge, and we're talking that little. Berland's concern is will we actually get this deal done. Kuhlman said she thinks so; she spoke with Groenier today and they were finalizing a few things. Berland said about \$200/month difference. Klahn would prefer to keep to Lake Ridge. **Berland made a motion to refinance into the Lake Ridge instrument.** Klahn seconded. Brusberg said the only value of doing One Community Bank is it allows us to diversify who we work with. Bachim asked if we do any banking with One Community. Kuhlman said not at this time. Ayes – 7. Noes – none. Motion carried.

**Investing of public funds** -- Kuhlman said right now we're getting 4.53% interest at Lake Ridge, and One Community Bank is offering 4.39%. Brusberg suggested staying at Lake Ridge for now. Brusberg said quarterly the finance committee can look at options. Gehrman asked if we could ask them to match. Kuhlman thought the same thing. Brusberg said if they can lock it in, it's a deal. Brusberg said if we do diversify, One Community has offered lower interest rates for loan purposes, so if we actually start to building an account with them, it might help for future borrowing purposes. Discussion. Klahn is in favor of opening the second door. **Berland made a motion to conditionally accept Resolution 2025-10 if One Community Bank is willing to beat Lake Ridge Bank by a minimum of 10 basis points.** Klahn seconded. Motion carried.

**Resolution 2025-11 CMAR** – Kuhlman explained the two C's on the report. One is in the section of effluent quality and plant performance, and that reason goes back to the phosphorus limits and how it was written in permit but it was different on the report. We were meeting it but now when we put in the numbers, it doesn't match. It was quarterly/yearly but on report it's monthly. The other C is with the operator licensing. Spilde doesn't have all of the advanced licenses, but Hollis does. Spilde asked if he can put Hollis down, but has not heard back. **Klahn made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-11 Compliance Maintenance Report year of 2024.** Gehrman seconded. Motion carried.

Olson reviewed bills and had a question on Cintas, there was an increase. Brusberg stated we had two extra weeks, because last time we paid was mid-April. Olson said it was the same with LV Laboratories. Kuhlman explained we had two bills since we hadn't paid bills for a month. No other problems. **Olson made a motion to approve bills as presented.** Brusberg seconded. Motion carried. Klahn abstained.

**Clerk's report** – Financials for April aren't finished yet. She attended League of Insurance conference. Board got copies of their 2024 report. We received a dividend of \$1,721. That was a little higher from previous year. They are again offering a safety equipment grant for next year. They are raising it slightly this year. Last year was \$600. Open Book is this Wednesday from 4-6 p.m. Board of Review is June 2 from 6 to 8 p.m. We got final confirmation and funds for Board of Commissioner of Public Lands for Hotel Street project of \$920,000. If we don't use it all, we will use the extra to pay down principal. Hotel Street update, they're close to finishing grading and thinks they will have curb/gutter in before end of week. Inside village hall, Wednesday plumbers are coming, and we're waiting to hear about carpet. Fire/EMS service award program yearly report was given to the board. This year went better than last year; better returns on the investments. Reports go to each member, and she will send to all municipalities and fire-EMS commission. Alley survey update, we started a project to fix alley issue of who owns what, and the best way to do it is by doing a new assessor's plot. They straightened out the alley, and a couple properties are getting a little more they didn't have before. Combs is putting in the stakes. Once done, we send out a notice to all property owners. All owners need to sign off on stakes around parcels. Gehrman asked if any came out. Kuhlman said a few have. They're signing off on their properties. Allen asked if anyone got less. Kuhlman said no. Anchor Club, the property on east end and lot 2 is getting a little extra. Klahn asked if we're getting anything on lot 7. Kuhlman said no, he owns it, but we will have to get an easement through there. Olson said it will be nice to get it cleaned up. After everyone signs off, we will have another resolution. We received lottery credit payments and personal property aid payments beginning of May. Treatment plant permit upgrades, we met with engineers. With our permit and upgrades, some reports are due next April. One for PFAS and one for temperature, we need reports and plans in place. And also we are required to do a facility study and we should do a rate study. Over the next two years that cost will be about \$70,000, and that doesn't include engineering or building for permit required upgrades. Gehrman asked if we need to send proposals to get pricing. Kuhlman said you can, but we will get a price from our engineers. Brusberg said the upside is our engineers know our system. Auction items were sold and we received about \$635. A few other things we junked. Food truck nights start tomorrow.

**Fireworks** – Brusberg stated something was put in newsletter and Facebook for volunteers. Gehrman got zero emails and Bruner had no responses. He talked to some residents, but no one took any interest in wanting to organize. Brusberg asked if they had any businesses or folks willing to donate money. Kuhlman said no. Brusberg said part of condition is we needed a committee to lead it and we don't want fireworks paid for by tax dollars but should come through donations. Those conditions weren't met, so it makes the decision for us. Brusberg said at the Chamber outing the Legion approached Kuhlman about doing something next year for 250<sup>th</sup> birthday of the USA. Bachim said we should notify the lighting crew and let them know. **Gehrman made a motion to not have a fireworks display on this 4<sup>th</sup> of July.** Olson seconded. Gehrman said it would be good to post on social media that we aren't having the fireworks. Brusberg as part of that if there is interest in future, please reach out to the village. Olson said now is the time to get a committee for next year. Motion carried. Bachim abstained.

**Klahn made a motion at 8:17 p.m. to adjourn.** Gehrman seconded. Motion carried.

Linda Kuhlman, WCPC, CMTW; Clerk-Treasurer

# July

2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Tires**, Oil & Battery Pick-up	2 Garbage & Recycling Yoga 6p	3 Bookmobile Gazebo 6-730p	4 <b>Public Works &amp; Clerk's Office Closed</b>	5
6	7	8 Brush Pick-up	9 Garbage Yoga 6p	10 Bookmobile Gazebo 6-730p	11	12
13	14 <b>Village Board Meeting 630p</b>	15 Food Truck Night Legion Park	16 Garbage & Recycling Yoga 6p	17 Bookmobile Gazebo 6-730p	18	19
20	21 <b>Clerk's Office Closed</b>	22	23 Garbage Yoga 6p	24 Community Potluck Noon at United Methodist Church Bookmobile Gazebo 6-730p	25	26
27	28 <b>Village Board Meeting 630p</b>	29	30 <b>Garbage &amp; Recycling</b>	31	Exercise Classes are held at the Brooklyn Community Bldg	**\$ 10/Tire Contact Clerk's Office 608-455- 4201