

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

September 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@danesherriff.com

Public Works Dept. - 455-1842

Fax 608-455-1501

102 Windy Lane

Email: publicworks@brooklynwi.gov



**Clerk's Office will be closed on Thursday, September 18,
and Friday, September 19, 2025, for training.**

Village of Brooklyn Dumpster Days -Residents Only

****Be prepared to show proof of residency. ****

Unloading items will be your responsibility.

Friday – 9/19 – 2 pm – 7 pm,

Saturday – 9/20 – Noon – 5 pm

Sunday – 9/21 – 10 am – 2 pm

ITEMS **NOT** ALLOWED:

- ROOFING SHINGLES
- CONCRETE OR STONE
- GRASS/WEEDS/BRUSH/LEAVES
- FLUORESCENT BULBS & FIXTURES
- RECYCLABLES (CARDBOARD OR BOXES) PLASTICS/GLASS/TIN CANS/BOTTLES
- 55 GALLON BARRELS/DRUMS
- PAINT
- ELECTRONICS/COMPUTERS/TV'S
- HAZARDOUS/INFECTIOUS MATERIALS OR THEIR CONTAINERS
- ** OIL, BATTERIES, TIRES, APPLIANCES

**** NOTE:** Oil & batteries can be brought in and placed in a separate area. No Freon or hazardous-containing appliances (refrigerators, AC units, etc.), microwaves, or dehumidifiers. Other appliances can be placed in the recycling dumpster. If you have any questions, contact Public Works at 608-455-1842.

**Most electronics MAY NOT
be put in the trash.
E-Cycle Wisconsin helps
you find a place to recycle
your old electronics.**



**Visit dnr.wi.gov and
search “ecycle”**

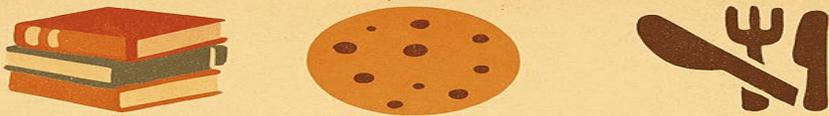


Villagewide Garage Sale



SEPTEMBER 19-21

Clothing Vintage Decor
Furniture Tools
Books
And more



**BROOKLYN METHODIST CHURCH
PRESENTS**

BOOK SALE, BAKE SALE & LUNCH SALE

**Friday & Saturday,
September 19-20**

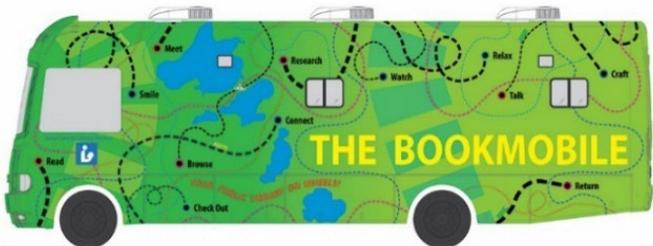
**BROOKLYN METHODIST CHURCH –
DURING VILLAGE-WIDE GARAGE SALES**

Come browse our gently-used books, grab a sweet treat or homemade lunch, and enjoy the community spirit during the garage sales!

We're hoping for a great turnout—
don't miss it!



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.



**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.



Love planning events, bringing the community together, or sparking fun ideas? This is your chance to make a difference!

The Village of Brooklyn is looking for a chairperson to lead the Recreation Committee.

If you're interested or want more information, please get in touch with the Clerk's Office at 608-455-4201.



***THE VILLAGE WOULD LIKE TO THANK
STACEY HARDY FOR HER 14 YEARS
OF SERVICE AS RECREATION
COMMITTEE CHAIR.***

An advertisement for a "SLOW FLOW" yoga class. The background is a soft-focus image of a person's hands in a yoga pose. The text is centered and reads: "SLOW FLOW" in large white letters, "WEDNESDAYS @ 6:00PM" and "BROOKLYN RECREATION" in smaller white letters, and "Instructor Joyce Dieter" at the bottom. A circular portrait of Joyce Dieter is positioned to the left of her name.

SLOW FLOW
WEDNESDAYS @ 6:00PM
BROOKLYN RECREATION
Instructor Joyce Dieter



**Are you wanting to get a headstart
on your holiday shopping and
support local crafters and
vendors?!?**

**The Ladies of Faith of Faith
Lutheran Church is hosting a
craft/vendor Fair Saturday
September 27, 2025 from 10 am
to 2 pm at 143 Washington St in
Oregon.**

**Join us as we support local
crafters and vendors, enjoy a
Sloppy Joe lunch and a bake sale.**

We are looking for an Assistant Teacher



Brooklyn Recreation Ballet is looking for a student with dance experience to fill their volunteer hours as an assistant dance teacher

Wednesday & Thursday

5:00 pm - 6:30 pm

Oct 1st 2025 - Dec 11th 2025

Brooklyn Community Building

If interested please contact Jessica
klahnj@zoho.com



CLASS DISCRIPTIONS & NOTES

Pre-Ballet – 5:15-5:45 (Wednesday) (ages 3 - 4)30 min

- Children ages 3-4 will be introduced to basic ballet technique. Classes emphasize rhythm, classroom etiquette, listening, and freestyle dance with prompts. Making dance fun is essential to a happy community dance program!

Ballet - 5:50-6:20 (Wednesday) (age 4.5 - 5) 30 mins

- Children age 4.5-5 will learn proper ballet technique and body placement. Classes emphasize rhythm, classroom etiquette and positive body image. Ballet builds a proper base for all other dance forms by teaching students how to move individual body parts while maintaining a graceful posture.

Ballet / Jazz - 5:30-6:15 (Thursday) (ages 6+) 45 min

- Children ages 6-11 will learn proper ballet technique and body placement. Classes emphasize rhythm, classroom etiquette and positive body image. Ballet builds a proper base for all other dance forms by teaching students how to move individual body parts while maintaining a graceful posture.
- Children ages 6-11 will be introduced to basic jazz techniques and skills, including turns, jumps and across the floor combinations. Jazz dance started in African culture which emphasized low, knee-bent movements with body isolations.
Approximately 25 minutes for each, but ballet may run a little longer.

Parent Viewing Days (IN Class)

- First Class
- December 10th or 11th (informal performance)

Classes will be held in the Brooklyn Community Building basement

- 102 N Rutland Ave, Brooklyn

Check & registration forms may be mailed or dropped off at the Village of Brooklyn

- PO Box 189, 210 Commercial St, Brooklyn

Make checks payable to – **Brooklyn Recreation**

Classes may be delayed or canceled if there is not enough students to fill the classes.
Next Ballet session will be Spring 2026

DANCE

SESSION SIGN UP

Fall dance session will be on Wednesday or Thursday starting October 1st and end December 11th 2025— 10 Classes, 1 Class as an informal performance (No class November 26th or 27th) . Listed below are the classes that will be offered this fall. Please select which class your child(ren) will participate in.

Pre-Ballet
(Wednesday)
 5:15-5:45 (ages 3-4)
 30 Mins

\$50

Ballet
(Wednesday)
 5:50-6:20 (age 4.5-5)
 30 Mins

\$50

Ballet / Jazz Combo
(Thursday)
 5:30-6:15 (ages 6+)
 45 Mins

\$70

Parent/ Guardian Information:

Parent / Guardian Name: _____
 Parent / Guardian Name: _____
 Primary Address: _____ City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone Number: (____) _____ Email: _____
 Emergency Contact: _____ Contact Phone: _____

First Child's Name

Full Name: _____
 Date of Birth: _____ Age _____

Second Child's Name

Full Name: _____
 Date of Birth: _____ Age _____

Health Concerns we should know about:

Health concerns we should know about:

Please make checks payable to Brooklyn Recreations

WAIVER AND RELEASE STATEMENT

(All participants must read and sign) I have read the accompanying event information and understand the policies of the event. I know that I should not enter unless I am medically able. I assume all risks associated with my child(ren)'s participation in this event, including but not limited to, falls, contact with other participants, all such risk being known and appreciated by me. Knowing these facts, I, for myself, my heirs, executors, administrators, or anyone else who might claim on my behalf, covenant not to use and WAIVE, RELEASE and DISCHARGE Brooklyn Recreation, Dance Instructor, Village of Brooklyn, worker or volunteers, their representatives, successors and assigns for ANY AND ALL claims of liability, whether foreseen or unforeseen, for death, personal injury or property damage arising out of, or in the course of my participation in this event. I further grant full permission to the above mentioned sponsors, organizers and or agents.

Signature: _____ Date _____
 Print Name: _____

(Brooklyn RecreationArea Only)
 Payment Method _____ Date Paid _____



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

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

September 2025 News from Your Senior Center

By Rachel Brickner

If you are a veteran, or have a veteran in your family, mark your calendar for Wednesday, October 8, at 1:00. Come join us at the Senior Center for a free program from the Veterans Services Office that explores the large variety of benefits that are available to veterans and their family members.

Many people are aware that the VA offers medical care for veterans, but many people do not understand how to access that system. Others may not be aware of long-term care available to veterans, or about options that allow veterans to receive care in their homes.

Additional benefits that veterans' families should be aware of include survivors' pensions, and burial and memorial benefits. There are programs available for veterans that help them adapt their homes to their needs. There are also programs that can help cover the cost of assisted living if staying at home is not a realistic choice.

Veterans' benefits are administered by the federal Veterans Administration, and like all federal programs, wading through the paperwork to access benefits can be daunting. Just determining whether they might be eligible for a certain program can be tricky for many people, as there are a lot of regulations to get through to make those decisions.

The presentation on October 8 will be provided by a Veterans Services officer—someone who works in this area every day and can explain how the regulations are applied.

If you are a veteran, the spouse or child of a veteran, or a caregiver for a veteran, this is a program you should consider attending. Please call the Senior Center at 608-835-5801 to reserve a spot for this free informational program from the Dane County Veterans Services Office.



COMMUNITY POTLUCK

Thursday, September 25, 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



**GET YOUR
UTILITY BILL FAST
BY GOING PAPERLESS**
Sign up for e-billing today

Call Clerk's office at
608-455-4201 or send an email to
deputyclerk@brooklynwi.gov

Flyer generated by Chatgpt

CURRENT HOUSING MARKET

State of Wisconsin Statistics

Why are property values going up?

Due to low quantity and high demand in the housing market, you will more than likely see an increase in your property value.

Assessed values will rise and fall to reflect the previous years market. Our mission is to fairly determine property values for municipalities. Assessors will use comparable sales from last year to best determine your new assessed value.

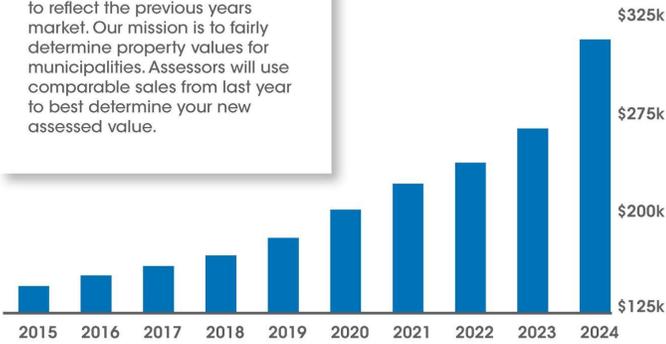


\$285,000 IN 2023



\$315,000 IN 2024

Property values have increased by 10.5% in one year. When property values are re-assessed, your assessment changes to mirror the current market.



MEDIAN PROPERTY VALUES INCREASED BY **103%** FROM 2015 to 2024



Presented by: Accurate Appraisal

This week we wanted to showcase our Wisconsin Housing Market Report. Even though interest rates are elevated, homes are still selling at a higher price compared to last year. When property values are reassessed annually, your assessment changes to mirror the current market.

Assessors aren't tax collectors, or even tax setters, we're just fellow taxpayers trying to make everything fair and equitable.

Please follow the link below to see how we lead through innovation, education, and technology!

<http://accurateassessor.com>

DID YOU KNOW?



Changes to your assessed value are based on the previous year(s) market sales.

Sales that occurred on the **open market in 2024** will be used to determine fair and equitable assessed **value in 2025**. The State of Wisconsin requires assessors to set new assessed values based on market sales from the previous year(s), **not the current year**.

Did you know that any assessment change for 2025 is determined by the previous year's market? The State of Wisconsin does not allow assessors to use current market values until next year's assessment.

Your new assessed value is based on comparable sales of similar properties. Assessors will compare your property using factors such as:

Location, Age, Style, Square Footage, Condition, Etc.

2025 Assessed values are determined by reviewing **sales from 2024** and earlier.

Troubleshooting

Symptoms	Problems	Solutions
Bad odor	Not enough air circulation, or too much green material	Mix the pile, or add in more brown material
Composts too slowly	Not enough water	Moisten and mix the pile
Pile is damp and warm only in center	Pile is too small	Collect more material and mix it into the pile
Pile is damp and sweet-smelling but no heat	Not enough green material	Mix in more green material like fresh grass
Attracts animals	Inappropriate materials, or food scraps too close to surface of pile	Avoid meat, oils, bones, dairy, etc. Bury food scraps 8-10 inches into the center of the pile

Examples of green and brown materials are listed in the Compost Recipe section.

Other Resources

Go to dnr.wis.gov and search "compost" or scan the QR code to access additional information.



Department Of Natural Resources
Bureau of Waste and Materials Management
P.O. Box 7921 Madison, WI 53707

Equal Opportunity Employer and Americans with Disabilities Act Statement: The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources provides equal opportunity in its employment, programs, services, and functions under an Affirmative Action Plan. If you have any questions, please write to Chief, Public Civil Rights, Office of Civil Rights, U.S. Department of the Interior, 7849 C. Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20240.

This publication is available in alternative format (large print, Braille, etc.) upon request. Please call 608-266-2111 for more information. Note: If you need technical assistance or more information, call the Accessibility Coordinator at 608-267-7490 / TTY Access via relay - 711.



PUB-WA-072
Revised 2024

Printed on recycled paper

HOME COMPOSTING

Reap A Heap Of Benefits



Wisconsin Department
of Natural Resources
PUB-WA-072
2024

Why Compost?

Since January 1993, state law bans yard waste—leaves, grass clippings, garden debris, and twigs, brush and branches smaller than six inches in diameter—from landfills and most incinerators. This law does not apply to stumps, roots or shrubs with intact root balls, or incinerators which burn waste to recover energy.

Food waste, including previously edible food and food scraps, is the top waste headed to Wisconsin landfills. Once there, the food waste fuels the production of methane, a potent greenhouse gas.

Composting breaks down your yard and food waste in an environmentally-friendly way and produces a valuable soil conditioner.

Composting:

- Saves you money by reducing the need for commercial soil amendments and waste disposal costs.
- Helps your garden and lawn by improving the fertility and health of your soil.
- Saves water by helping the soil hold moisture and reducing water runoff.
- Saves valuable space in our landfills, and reduces landfill gas emissions.

A Burning Issue

Backyard burning pollutes the air, creates a fire hazard and is a nuisance to neighbors. State air, waste and fire control rules restrict backyard burning, and many communities prohibit it entirely. For a cleaner, safer alternative to burning your yard waste, try composting!

What Can You Compost?

Do Compost

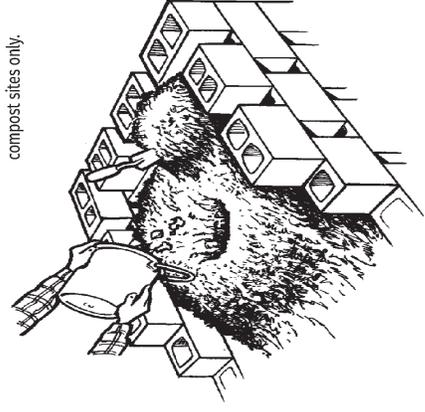
- grass clippings
- leaves
- straw
- weeds & garden debris
- small brush, twigs
- vegetable and fruit peels, rinds, cores and trimmings
- pumpkins & gourds
- sawdust & wood chips
- eggshells
- coffee grounds,
- tea leaves & paper filters
- shredded paper
- paper egg cartons

Do NOT Compost

- meat, bones, fat
- dairy products
- oils
- weeds gone to seed
- invasive weeds and plants
- whole branches, logs
- pet or human waste/litter
- pet food
- charcoal
- briquette ash
- sawdust or ash from treated wood
- products labeled "biodegradable"
- Certified-compostable plates, bowls and containers*

If composting through a collection service, ask for a full list of what they accept.

* These materials are certified for large scale compost sites only.



Composting Made Simple

Composting is a lot easier than you may think. Organic material breaks down around us in nature all the time.

Composting is just a method of speeding up the process!

Most compost bin designs are so simple they can be built in a few hours. Once you gather your yard waste and form it into a pile, the only time you'll spend is for occasional maintenance. Then sit back and let nature do the rest!

Composting Equipment

Tools

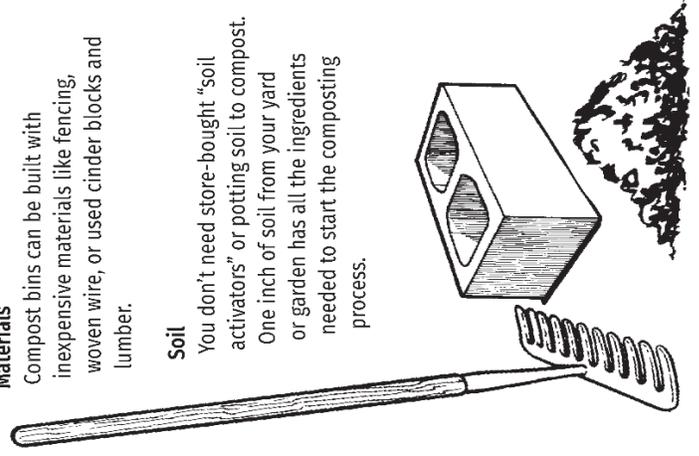
All you need are some basic gardening tools, like a pitchfork, a rake, and a shovel.

Materials

Compost bins can be built with inexpensive materials like fencing, woven wire, or used cinder blocks and lumber.

Soil

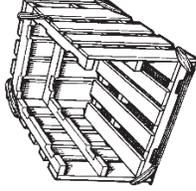
You don't need store-bought "soil activators" or potting soil to compost. One inch of soil from your yard or garden has all the ingredients needed to start the composting process.



Composting Bins

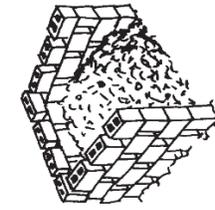
Used Pallet Bin

Used pallets can easily be wired together to form a bin. Construct bins with removable fronts or sides so that yard materials can be easily turned with a pitchfork.



Woven Wire Bin

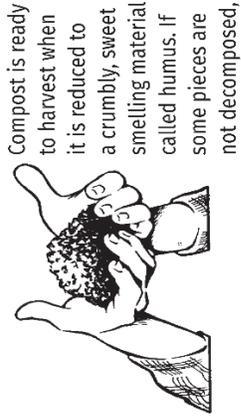
Purchase a length of woven wire and fasten together with several small chain snaps (available at any hardware store) to make a circle. To calculate the length of wire needed, lay a piece of string around the outside of the pile and measure it. (For a 4'x4' x4' compost pile, purchase 16 feet of woven wire.)



Block or Brick Bin

Pile up bricks, cement blocks, or rocks to form three sides of a square container. Lay the blocks without mortar, leaving spaces between to let air circulate.

Using Finished Compost



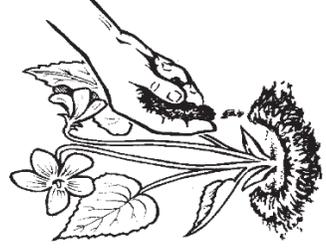
Compost is ready to harvest when it is reduced to a crumbly, sweet smelling material called humus. If some pieces are not decomposed, you can sift those out and use them to start a new batch. Compost improves soil structure, holds in moisture and plant nutrients, and promotes strong, healthy root systems for plant growth. Here are the most common ways to use compost:

Mix It Into Soil

- Mix 2 inches of compost into the top 6–8 inches of lawn soil before seeding for grass.
- Mix 2 inches of compost into the top 6–8 inches of garden soil before planting.
- Spread a 2 or 3 inch blanket of compost onto the soil of exposed sloping areas to help fight erosion.

Use It As A Mulch

Add compost as a mulch around flowers, shrubs, and trees to discourage weeds, help soil retain moisture, and protect roots from alternate freezing and thawing during winter months.



Composting Recipes

Shopping List:

- Nitrogen-rich "greens" include grass clippings, green yard trimmings, weeds and fruit and vegetable scraps.
- Carbon-rich "browns" include leaves, small brush and twigs (1/2" diameter or less), woody plant prunings, sawdust, shredded paper.

Slow Compost

Ingredients:

Mix one volume of green materials with two or three volumes of brown materials, water as needed.

Directions:

- In a heap or bin, layer your greens as they accumulate. For faster composting, chop them up first with a hoe or lawn mower.
- Water so compost is kept as moist as a wrung-out sponge, and turn periodically.
- In 6 to 18 months, the material at the bottom and center of the pile will be dark, crumbly compost. Sift, and use the uncomposted material to start a new batch.

Fast Compost

Ingredients:

Green and brown materials, water as needed.

Directions:

- Mix one part green materials with two parts brown to form a pile (an average size is 4'x4'). For fast composting, chop them up first with a hoe or lawn mower.
- Mix in one inch of soil.
- Keep the pile as moist as a wrung-out sponge.
- Turn the pile every week to let air in.
- Finished compost will take between twelve weeks and one year, depending on how often you turn it and how well you maintain the moisture of the pile.

Village Board Meeting Minutes August 11, 2025

On August 11, 2025, President Mike Brusberg called the Village Board meeting of the Village of Brooklyn to order at 6:30 p.m. Trustees present were Mike Gehrman, David Berland, Dan Olson, Todd Klahn, and Christian Allen. Trustee Jake Bachim was absent. Also present were Jason Marshall, Deputy Merrick Grumke, Clerk-Treasurer Linda Kuhlman. Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments - Jason Marshall – Ronek couldn't get out last week to inspect. He will be out there this week. He's also here on Stacey's behalf. She isn't happy. As a board member, you should hold to a higher standard. They apologize for the smell while spreading manure. He said there was a certain board member who called them out by name and the bar name on Facebook, and if someone had a problem with it, go to them. He didn't think it was professional. He suggests stopping and thinking before posting. We are in a farm community. The type of manure they spread, they did in another direction last year and had people complaining about it. They tried to be clean on the roads. If someone knows what's going on, try explaining it first. (Marshall left) Klahn agreed, as a board member, we need to lift up our businesses and not put them down. Gehrman said while posting make sure it's not representative as a board member. It's one thing making comments as a person. Brusberg suggested if things get you upset, call him before posting.

President's report – There's been a lot of pieces going around about Hotel Street, and in many regards, we need to be patient. Everyone has good intentions, but in the near term, please go through the board, or ask staff for questions. When we have meeting, be actively engaged in the discussion. He had four conversations last week. We'll get our way through this. We have a good product. We have a good engineer in Strand. They've helped us design a lot of different things within the community. That project, there's been a lot of different perspectives, but if we look at the end result, it's good. They deserve kudos. We hear a lot of negatives, but they did a really good job with this, and we'll fine tune with the punchlist. Gehrman suggested we do a lessons learned with the engineers; it's an idea. Brusberg said when there's a time and place, they can do that. Klahn came in late, but there were a lot of changes midstream, even before the project started, to make things better, and to make it better, it's hard to get everything we wanted. Brusberg said with the budget, they did everything they could to keep it in budget. Klahn said the contractor did a good job of doing extras without charging.

Berland made a motion to approve minutes of July 28, 2025. Allen seconded. Motion carried. Klahn abstained.

South sidewalk on Hotel Street – Brusberg said this was on as a placeholder in case Marshall had something from the last meeting. He reaffirmed he still needs more time. **Brusberg made a motion to get thoughts, insights and suggestions from Marshall on how to approach Hotel Street, and specifically the sidewalk in front of his property, no later than Friday, August 22nd, so we can make a decision at the following board meeting.** Gehrman seconded. Klahn agreed as long as we give him notice right away. Brusberg asked to **amend motion to give notice to Marshall, whether verbal or written.** Motion carried.

Brusberg added we're all in a position of being called out on the spot. It can happen anywhere. The important thing about any type of resident contact, complaint or concern, it's good to be an ear, but you can't promise. We need to formalize that, where if they have a complaint/ concern and it's something they want the board to listen to and hear out, we need them to send an email or come into the clerk's office and fill out a form, so we have documentation of what that is, and it's not word of mouth. Then we can actually tactically execute and act on it. Otherwise, we're presuming at times what their concern might be based on our anecdotal thoughts and perspectives. So he asks going forward if something like this pops up, refer them to the clerk's email, and they can copy you also, or they can go to the clerk's office and fill out a form. Klahn agreed we need a written form. Gehrman said if someone is asking for something, he's said to come to a meeting or let them know at the

office. He agreed we can't promise anything. Brusberg also added they can approach staff and have that similar voice of concern, but that doesn't include poor behavior. Poor behavior is not tolerated, and it's entirely acceptable for staff to remove themselves from the conversation. It gets nowhere and leads to a defensive result. We can't have that. Our engineers can't be abused by the public. They're doing a service for this community. They are an extension of our employees, and as such they should be treated with respect as well. Any future behavior like that will not be tolerated, if they are put on the defensive. That can be shared with everyone in the community on a go-forward basis. This is not to happen anymore. Allen assumes we had a situation. Brusberg said we've had various situations that have been glossed over, and it's now time for a reset. It's nothing any board member or village employee did incorrectly. This is now to reset those expectations so we don't have that happen again.

PSC rate case – Kuhlman reviews water rates every year after the PSC audit, to see if we qualify for a simplified rate case. For the last few years we have qualified, and we did a rate increase last year. We do qualify again this year, and it's a 3% increase this year. Next year we will have some higher water issues including maintenance on well 2, which is about \$100,000. Brusberg asked if it's grounds for doing a full rate case. Kuhlman said water and sewer expenses are paid by rates we charge. If you do a long rate case, you're subject to the PSC telling you what rate you need to charge. Klahn said we've had a tight budget on sewer. With the new sewer plant coming in, should we increase rates or look at it for this fall. If we have to do this \$3 million upgrade, our rates will have to go way up. If we do a little bit this fall, it won't look so bad in a few years. Gehrman said like putting money in the bank. Klahn added or to eat up some of that increase now. Olson said instead of having a big increase at once, to ramp it up slowly. Brusberg asked if we have loans expiring. Kuhlman said water we had one expire recently. As we get closer to the project, we will have to do a rate study. We do have a loan that will be paid off when we start the new one. But we are consistently in the negative or close. Klahn said look at it this fall to do a rate increase next year. Kuhlman said sewer is not set by PSC, so the board can make that change. Last sewer increase was about 10 years ago. Klahn said we can do a 2-3% this fall. Brusberg there's the PSC rate case, and we want to stay ahead of it so we don't have to do a more complex rate case. With sewer it behooves us to look at it. Maybe next meeting we can look at the water PSC rates, and then in the future look at sewer. Klahn said Income versus expense, when he was on last time, if we broke even, that was a good year. Kuhlman can pull the study that was done when we did South Kerch Street. Klahn said 2-3 percent is easier than a 7 percent increase. He thinks we should look into it, so we're ready for budget time this fall. Gehrman agrees. Brusberg if are loans expiring, we have some flex because of the expiration. We don't have to take it as high, and there's a way to grade into that increase. Allen said people will complain. They already do. Klahn we get hit harder on our sewer regulations from DNR than some other local communities. Gehrman said it's probably a good time to start those discussions, get it into the newsletter that we're not choosing to do this but it's coming and needs to be done. Allen said try to be transparent on costs and what they are, so people can see that. Brusberg if we're going to do something on the sewer side, we should have a public forum. Olson one thing to do is like we do with our taxes, do a pie chart, so this is how much we spend in chemicals, and testing, etc. People don't understand how much it costs to take care of everything at the plant. Berland added we need to make sure they see what we're spending is less than what we're taking in, and here's what's coming up, so we either pay for it all at once or a little at a time. Allen one now, one if we did it all at once when we need the money, and one for what it will be if tapered up. Brusberg for PSC, bring back to next meeting or first meeting in September; and as it pertains to sewer, shoot for first meeting in September to have initial look at it, and discuss at second meeting.

Renting parking lot – Kuhlman had a request from someone asking if the board would consider renting out the parking lot. They didn't go into details of what they wanted, but asking if it would be a consideration. Berland said he would be hesitant to rent out a lot we don't charge for in the first place, and we just built it to support businesses. He feels blowback will be more significant than any benefit we might derive. Brusberg is aware they're looking to do special events. Berland would be more comfortable utilizing the lot at the community building, because of this lot's proximity to all the businesses we want to support. Gehrman said if someone wanted to do a street fair, it would have to come to the board. He would be nervous setting a rate for a parking

lot. If we have a special event, bring a proposal, and maybe there's not a fee because it's for the community good. Brusberg suggested having them fill out a special event application and bring it to the board. Klahn it's too vague to make a decision, but he's leaning against it. Berland doesn't disagree. He doesn't want to be in the business of renting out parking lots and the blowback from people who want to park there. Kuhlman will let them know if they want to do something, to fill out the application. Berland loves the idea of doing something, but we can discuss where to accommodate.

Allen made a motion to approve public works to post no parking signs on N. Kerch Street for the Luke Bryan concert on September 18. Berland seconded. Motion carried.

Olson had a question about the US Cellular bill. Kuhlman said it is consistently one month behind based on the due date and when we receive the invoice and can send out the check. **Olson made a motion to approve bills as presented.** Klahn seconded. Motion carried.

Clerk's Report – We have financials. For the month of July we had \$326,505.13 in deposits. \$50,382.23 was from July shared revenue payments. We had \$142,380 in loan proceeds from the NAN at the business park. We had a payment go out, so the bank reimburses us for that payment. We are under what we thought that NAN loan was going to be. Hopefully we'll have it done by the end of the month. Withdrawals totaled \$673,992.98, with a loan payment of \$35,172. Total ending balance in all accounts was \$2,406,821.39. She broke out the One Community Bank accounts on the spreadsheet. We had some phone issues with Charter at the plant, but are getting them worked out. Field person from Representative Pocan's office came last Thursday and met with Brusberg and Kuhlman. They're available if we need help. We had a lightning strike at the plant on Sunday which took out a piece of equipment. We will contact the insurance company, but we do have a \$1,000 deductible. Autumn Festival is on September 20 at Legion Park. Berland asked who can contribute to the newsletter. Kuhlman said pretty much anybody, as long as it's not an advertisement. We get information from different sources, and sometimes the information we get comes as a whole page of events and some of those events might be over by the time the newsletter goes out. We have some temporary operator licenses for Labor Day weekend. We had an increase in net new construction, in part due to O&A's new building, of 5.27% this year. We received new census information. We have an increase from 2020 of a total of 51 people. It was an increase of 60 in Dane County and decrease of 9 in Green County. Clerk's office will be closed Tuesday through Friday next week for annual clerk's conference. Brusberg asked about Planning Zoning meeting next week. Kuhlman said it was cancelled. She will let Marshall know we're gone next week, but he can drop his information in the drop box. Brusberg added a thanks to all the work everyone put into Brooklyn Night Out. Thanks to the fire/EMS for doing food. Special thanks to Deputy Grumke for all his work. The Optimist Club gave Deputy Grumke an award.

Klahn made a motion at 7:19 p.m. to adjourn. Olson seconded. Motion carried.

Linda Kuhlman, WCPC, CMTW; Clerk-Treasurer

**Village Board Meeting Minutes
August 25, 2025**

On August 25, 2025, President Mike Brusberg called the Village Board meeting of the Village of Brooklyn to order at 6:30 p.m. Trustees present were Mike Gehrman, David Berland, Dan Olson, Todd Klahn, Jake Bachim, and Christian Allen. Also present were Jason Marshall, Austin Hill from Ronek Concrete, Matt Goble, and Clerk-Treasurer Linda Kuhlman. Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Comments – Brusberg stated we have Hotel Street on the agenda, so anything specific to the project can be covered under that item. Marshall said he got a bill for the sidewalks. Can they hold payment until we figure this out, or are they supposed to pay that. There is cement splatter up and down the whole block, the cement not being done right, so he hates to pay for something until they figure it out. Brusberg said we'll tackle that separately. The Village Board approved the assessments for all businesses on the street for the cost. Marshall doesn't like to pay for something until the job is done and done right. Brusberg said they'll tackle anything remaining as part of a punchlist with the contractors. The assessment should be paid. It's on the village on how the work was done.

President's report – Brusberg thanked the fire department association for stepping up at Brooklyn Night Out, providing food for the attendees. At a recent fire/EMS meeting, the fire association said they will cover a new sign board out of association funds. No taxpayer dollars will pay for that. In addition, regarding the concerns about social media posts that were placed on Facebook by village board members, what has been done since then is the clerk shared our social media policy, which covers this type of event, with all board members. He looked into the specific matter, and comparing to the policy, that was on someone's private page and not a Brooklyn info page that the post took place. You're allowed to comment on personal posts. There was no foul play as pertains to social media policy. Any actions of said board member were within the policy itself. We have freedom of speech, so you are allowed to make personal posts. If it had gone out to the Brooklyn info page, that would be a different story. It was reviewed.

Klahn made a motion to postpone minutes from August 11 to next meeting. Gerhmann seconded. Motion carried.

Hotel street sidewalk – Brusberg said we received information 4:00 today. He would like to make a motion to postpone any action until we have appropriate time to read and digest and get to public works and engineer. He would ask Hill if there's anything we can take from what you provided and share. Hill said the easiest way would be to go out there and walk. He had a two-foot level, a lot had no pitch, a lot had negative pitch, some had a lot of positive pitch. The whole thing really goes all sorts of different directions. If he did this at somebody's house, they'd take it out. The biggest issue is water pooling in front of buildings, and the drains, there is about that much underneath that is starting to dam up. In the winter, that water will build up and ice dam. If you have any other questions, his email and phone number are on the sheet, and he can have a separate meeting out there. Brusberg said that's appreciated. We'll have to think about it and get it to public works and Strand and definitely bring back to a future meeting, whether a board meeting or separate meeting. He doesn't want to hurry along and make a rash decision. Hill said if anyone has any questions, clarification, just give him a call or email.

Olson made a motion to postpone to a later date until all the parties can go through and go over the said paperwork that has been brought in. Marshall asked to have the engineer there when everyone meets, so everybody is on the same page. Brusberg said we'll see. We would like to have our engineer and public works and Hill discuss it. Marshall said Goble has water running into his building. He's confident in Hill's ability. Brusberg said in his view this document addresses everything, or does it not. Hill said the stuff he saw generally. Brusberg said we are not adding more to the list. This is what we will focus on. If there's other concerns or complaints, it needs to be written to the village. Marshall and Goble would like to be at any meeting there as an observer. Brusberg said as an observer, but active engagement that's where we have to be mindful. There's been some behavior towards are engineer that's not going to be allowed anymore. Marshall has nothing against them, but it has to be solved. Brusberg said we're going to focus on how to make this the best solution. At this point behaviors need to be improved. Marshall said he's trying to be patient. Brusberg said so are we. Klahn seconded. Motion carried. Hill asked if any other questions for him. Brusberg said we'll get back to them. Gerhmann thanked him for looking at it. (Marshall, Goble and Hill left)

Public Works/Utilities/EM – Kuhlman said the board has the list of activities. The truck sold for about \$27,724. We paid about \$29,800 for it. Klahn pushed for it the last time he was on the board, because municipalities get a discount when purchase trucks and vehicles, and it's been a good run where if you keep it for three years,

there's little cost of the old truck. There's cost for the new, but it doesn't matter if you keep 10 years or 20 years, you're going to have the increase. If you bite off a little every three years, it's better to manage -- no tires, under warranty. Kuhlman said the report also shows the last three vehicles sold with their pricing. Highway 92 project is still ongoing. Every year public works moves the skateboard equipment for Labor Day. They're asking if we can make it a permanent removal. Not many people, if any, use it. It's also not in great shape anymore. Allen said as a skateboarder, the couple issues is the layout isn't correct and also the blacktop is pretty rough which makes it hard to keep speed, and a couple changes could have made it better. Gehrman said the recreation committee thought it was to be gone years ago, because of lack of use. If people ask, revisit either fixing the ramps or the layout and do it correctly. Brusberg asked if that could be an area converted to more pickleball courts. Olson said he talked to public works, and doesn't know if dimensions are right, but in future look we have to look at replacing the tennis courts. **Gehrman made a motion to permanently remove the skateboard ramps at the park.** Klahn seconded. Motion carried.

Clerk's report – Kuhlman reported she and deputy clerk went to the Wisconsin Clerk's Association annual meeting. It was a good conference, good training and networking. Open house here on September 8 before the next board meeting. Deputy Grumke has coverage for the events happening in the village over the next few months. Sheriff IT people will be hooking up computer at the village hall this week. After that the Historical Society can look to move into the space above the community building. Brusberg asked when the squad will go to auction. Kuhlman said public works is working on a list of equipment that's in the squad to list on auction. Klahn asked if SCADA is all fixed. Kuhlman said it has been fixed and works. The Charter bill for service at public works is \$100 less per month than Frontier. Brusberg asked to park old squad in front of public works on the date of the concert.

Kuhlman and deputy clerk wanted to ask if it's possible to either rent out or let groups use space in the village hall during the day. We have extra offices and conference room space available now. Brusberg said during the daytime hours and a group that serves the community. As long as they pick up after themselves, we don't have to charge. Berland asked about creating a signed contract with a cleaning fee to be assessed as needed, and leave it to clerk and deputy clerk discretion on who to use it. He's comfortable with that. **Berland made a motion to allow deputy clerk and clerk to use their discretion to offer rooms in village hall for use to organizations or affiliates at their discretion.** Bachim seconded. Motion carried. Kuhlman wanted to ask board thoughts on hosting a **shredding day or week** for the village residents, and also having an **electronics recycling day** either in conjunction with dumpster days or some other day. She will get more information if the board is interested. Gehrman thinks at dumpster days would be great. Brusberg wouldn't want to do a week-long shred. Brusberg asked about having a box for goodwill donations for dollars at dumpster days to be used for, for example, fireworks. Berland asked if we invite someone like St. Vincent DePaul to accept donations instead of putting in dumpster.

New business – Kuhlman stated the board previously approved staying in the Dane County Consortium, so this resolution and agreement make it official. She would like to modify the first paragraph to just say we've been a member and not include time, because she can't find the date we first joined. **Berland made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-14 Approving Participation in Dane County Urban County Consortium, with discussed modifications.** Olson seconded. Motion carried. **Brusberg made a motion to approve the Dane County Urban County Consortium Agreement.** Bachim seconded. Motion carried.

Kuhlman explained as part of purchase agreement with Groenier and Mortensen, we don't have a clear motion in the minutes approving the offer to purchase, and the title company wants clarification on who will be signing the closing documents. **Klahn made a motion to approve Resolution 2025-15 Resolution to Sell Real Estate.** Bachim seconded. Motion carried.

Kuhlman pointed out that Groenier asked about **addresses for their land in the Business Park.** Anything coming off Heritage Drive would be numbered by the village. Anything coming off the new road, would it be state

highway address or addresses off the new road. She doesn't know who would assign addresses on a state highway. Klahn said the county assigns county road and state assigns their own. Kuhlman said it's not something that needs to be done immediately. Olson said the road is the access off the state. Bachim suggested it would be Church Street if in Village limits anyway. Brusberg talked about naming the road first before assigning addresses. Kuhlman said there's no rush. Brusberg had an idea of someone that's been a prominent figure in the community: Chief Mortensen did a lot for this community, a lot of kinship for him, so something worth thinking about, or the Klahn family, with just how long they've been in this community. Klahn said Phil Mortensen did more for the community of unrecognized stuff; even Louis Fahey did a lot for the village. Kuhlman said it has to be parceled out, so they're in no hurry. Brusberg asked the board to think about names and try to tackle as part of September 8 meeting. Bachim suggested talking with families to make sure they're okay and not upset.

Kuhlman added the Exxon Mobil invoice to the check payments. It was about \$991. Olson reviewed bills and had a question on the Wayne Ace Bus and Limo Service LLC, what account was this taken out of because it wasn't budgeted. Kuhlman said they are under summer rec expenses, but if board wants, can move to take out of their recreation savings account. Brusberg asked if we have dollars set aside for summer rec. Kuhlman said not a lot, and we're always over budget because revenue doesn't match expenses. Revenue is usually about \$500-600 and between wages and expenses, it's about \$4,000, but that's normal every year, but it's budgeted. Klahn said to take the funds out of budget and general fund. Brusberg said they talked about signing up earlier to maybe get more people. **Klahn made a motion to approve bills as presented.** Gehrmann seconded. Motion carried. Olson opposed.

Finance/Personnel Committees – Brusberg said they met earlier tonight. There is a wage schedule for staff attached. It's their recommendation to provide a 3% increase to all employee wages and round up the increase to the nearest dime. The rough increase is \$11,330 and a \$12,180 increase for benefits for employees. Berland said the 3% increase is in line with state and university increases. When considering CPI, it's a reasonable increase. Roberts and Reilly will still receive 50 increase per test passed. Kuhlman said increase was 3.5% last year. Gehrmann likes we put in for passing tests, shows more responsibility and incentive. Brusberg will have a future meeting that we will begin to start general conversations around succession planning for the future and how to think about it in budget for years beyond. We don't want to be in a state turning over multiple village staff and act reactively. Klahn agreed it's a good thing to talk about. **Brusberg made a motion for the 3% increase with rounding up to nearest 10 cent.** Berland seconded. Motion carried. Olson abstained.

Trustees/president increases for the future – Brusberg said looking at comp scales from other communities, it seems like on our size and complexity, we're in the neighborhood. It's one of those things where you're never going to make a meaningful amount from this. The hard part is struggling to get people to sign up to be on the village board, and he doesn't have a good pulse on the why. He thinks we should do some type of survey to get a better pulse on volunteerism and for the board, committees, etc. Gehrmann doesn't know answer either. You're not going to make enough that it will be a part-time job. Klahn's feeling is doesn't have young kids anymore, but a parent with kids, to leave for 2 to 2-1/2 hours out of home, it has to be a worthwhile trip to come. Berland said as a parent with young kids, frequently they have conflicts and they need to get a babysitter, so it's a zero sum service for him. He's glad to be of service. He knows from the last census, 50% of population have kids, and if we want to engage people, we have to consider what happens with their kids while participating, because we can't count on people having a spouse to be there. If we can solve that, it might change who participates. Discussion on volunteerism. Brusberg suggested postponing and revisiting as part of budget process to see how things are tracking. Gehrmann said on Planning and Zoning and Recreation committees there are community members, would it make sense to offer those community residents more and get more engagement from the community coming into those meetings, as a way of getting them into government and helping. Allen said you can't pay enough to motivate them; you'd have to go to a number that's not reasonable. Klahn agrees, but his motivation is to make it sensible. We do it because we want to do it. Berland said to look at how to remove barriers so people who want to do it, can do it. The board will look at

comparable communities. **Brusberg made a motion to postpone adjustments in trustee/village president future wages until future dialogue with budget.** Klahn seconded. Brusberg added employee health insurance for 2026, presuming we provide the same type, will be a \$12,800 increase. Discussion on insurance. Klahn said retention is big. It's not as desirable an occupation, because you will make more in private jobs. The benefits make up for the pay. Gehrman said stability is part of that also. Asked if we're part of a group or buy our own. Kuhlman said it's the state's local plan. **Klahn made a motion to recommend health insurance at no change.** Berland seconded. Motion carried. Olson abstained. Kuhlman mentioned the second meeting in September will be our big budget meeting. We get the levy on September 4 and will have the water and sewer information by that time. Public Works will meet before that. The sheriff's department isn't getting a raise next year.

Fire/EMS District Commission – Brusberg thanked the association again for Brooklyn Night Out and also for the new sign outside the fire station. Right now repairs are needed to new ambulance due to a minor accident. There's also repairs needed to a neighboring ambulance due to the same accident, and they will keep the existing one until those repairs are completed, but they will put it up for auction later. Sale will more than cover the defibrillator costs in 2026. Budgets are in packets. They're recommending for approval at joint meeting on September 17th at 5:30. Highlights are in the summary. Fire department had a budgetary decrease of 3.4% from total net. Expenses are up; however, there is additional income due to the 2% dues payments and interest. There was \$12,000 able to set aside as part of last year from final actuals, and those dollars were repurposed to other line items. They will do that process in the future also. As it pertains to EMS, that will be a nominal 1.1% increase, which is net of revenues. There is escrow dollars reflected for FAP income, but it's also reflected in expenses, so they equal out. There is also additional interest income of \$7,000 and they're continuing to see higher run revenue, so \$85,000 is an increase of \$10,000 but it's on par with a year-to-date basis. Also fairly confident they now have wages reflective of all adjustments made to make sure EMS is fully staffed and avoid out of service as much as possible. They will continue to evaluate. This represents a 1% decrease in totality across the two departments. Taking net total budget from \$496,880 to \$491,981. We're allowed CPI plus 2%, so this is a material change relative to what would be allowed, but we feel this is appropriate for the taxpayers. Klahn said it seems like the most logical budget he's heard in a long time. Brusberg said we need to get more information about the boiler, the two that heat the bay. They are getting dated, and we need to get estimates on those. That might be something to solve for in the future, but do have reserve balance. Gehrman asked if it is an rfp. Brusberg said they're getting proposals. Annual joint meeting is on September 17 at 5:30 p.m. Not all members need to be present. Brusberg will chair the meeting. Kuhlman said we need a quorum of our board. If you can't make it, let Linda know.

Brusberg added he was direct as part of earlier dialogue. He will be that way in the future. We need to do so with behaviors that indicate cooperation, and we need time to digest this information and not react. We all want to see this to completion. We will tackle items through the punchlist. Gehrman said as someone who manages large projects, it should come in through public works, the engineer and general contractor, and that's how we should be handling it. If we set that and do that, we will get a professional result at the end. No project is perfect. Klahn said typically contractors work better with dialogue than to say you screwed this up and you fix it. Gehrman said we have good contractors and engineers, and they will take care of it.

Klahn made a motion at 7:56 p.m. to adjourn. Gehrman seconded. Motion carried.

Linda Kuhlman, WCPC, CMTW; Clerk-Treasurer

October

2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
Exercise Classes are held at the Brooklyn Community Bldg	**\$ 10/Tire Contact Clerk's Office 608-455-4201		Garbage Yoga 6p Ballet 5-630 p	Garbage Bookmobile Gazebo 6-730p Ballet 5-630 p		
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
		Tires**, Oil & Battery Pick-up	Garbage & Recycling Ballet 5-630 p	Bookmobile Gazebo 6-730p Ballet 5-630 p		
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	Village Board Meeting 630 p	Brush Pick-up	Garbage Ballet 5-630 p	Bookmobile Gazebo 6-730p Ballet 5-630 p		
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
			Garbage & Recycling Yoga 6p Ballet 5-630 p	Community Potluck Noon @ Methodist Church Bookmobile Gazebo 6-730p Ballet 5-630 p		
26	27	28	29	30	31	
	Village Board Meeting 630 p		Garbage Yoga 6p Ballet 5-630 p	Ballet 5-630 p	Happy Halloween Trick or Treating 430-730p	