



Town of Brooklyn News

December 2017
Page 1 of 2

Tax Collection

The Green County Treasurer's office will be collecting Real Estate and Personal Property taxes for the Town of Brooklyn. You may mail your payment or stop by the Green County Courthouse during regular business hours. Also accepting payments are the following banks: Associated Bank - Monroe. Sugar River Bank - Monroe, Belleville, Brodhead and Juda. The Bank of New Glarus - New Glarus. Union Bank & Trust - New Glarus. Monona Bank - Belleville and Brooklyn. Greenwoods State Bank - Monticello.

Town Recycling News

All Town of Brooklyn residents share in the responsibility of keeping our rural community beautiful and healthy. We significantly re-wrote our recycling website (<http://townofbrooklyn.org/recycle-and-waste/recycling-rules,-costs-and-best-practices>) to be a better resource for you in accomplishing this task.

Saving our environment starts with being a smart consumer by avoiding products with excess packaging, non recyclable materials or limited use. Let manufacturers and retailers know this influences your purchasing decisions. Reuse or repurpose items, when possible. After those possibilities are exhausted, it is critical our community has a recycling program that encourages everyone's participation.

The Town of Brooklyn has a strong and responsible recycling program. We encourage more thoughtful individual waste

management through user fees only to meet operating costs so as not to add to taxes. For instance, tire dumping is not only unsightly it's a health hazard since water collects in them and breeds mosquitoes. We price tire collection fees to match our recycling costs to discourage dumping and not to add costs to the Town. We ensure our tire fees are lower than most collection fees elsewhere.

We are proud to be designated as a Wisconsin e-cycler site that responsibly collects and stores electronic waste such as PC's, cell phones, printers and other products containing toxic materials and sensitive personal information. Our upstream recyclers are carefully selected and licensed for responsible practices.

Please take time to review our website, ask questions, get involved and teach others on how to best protect our planet.

Dog Licenses

Wisconsin State Law requires all dogs over 5 months of age to be licensed by April 1st of each year or when they turn 5 months old, if later in the year. Non-compliance can result in assessment of late fees, collection through fees and penalties being placed on your property tax bill and/or other charges.

You must provide a completed application (download form from the Town website <http://townofbrooklyn.org/> or contact the clerk for a printed copy) together with a current rabies vaccination certificate (or copy), a stamped self-addressed envelope (for your license and rabies certificate to be mailed back to you) along with payment sent to: Town of Brooklyn, Russ Cichy – Treasurer, 400 W. Main Street, Brooklyn, WI 53521. If you prefer, you can drop off the completed application package together with your check at the Brooklyn Recycle Center or at the Town Hall during normal posted hours vs. sending in the mail if that is easier. Dog license fees are as follows: Spayed/neutered \$8 each, Unspayed Unneutered \$13, Multiple dog license \$35 (up to 12 dogs, \$3 extra for each dog over 12).

New Internet Options Coming

More high-speed internet options will become available to town of Brooklyn residents in the next few years. Federal and state grants have been awarded to encourage broadband internet expansion in rural areas. Frontier Communications and AT&T have both been awarded funds under the federal program. The grant requires new services to be in place by the end of 2020. Frontier's tentative plans are to begin laying fiber optic cable in the 455 exchange in the spring of 2018 with completion by fall. AT&T has not yet provided any information on the type of system (wired or wireless) or a timeline. Their service is expected to cover the 882 exchange.

In addition, the Green County Development Corporation is seeking state funds to expand broadband through a wireless operator that will serve the entire county. The system should be operational within a year of receiving grant approval, which is expected in March, 2018. The 2017-2019 state budget increased funds for rural broadband grants from \$1.5 million per year to \$7.5 million.

The federal communications commission defines high-speed broadband as a minimum of 25 mbps download and 3 mbps upload. The state grant requires that speed as the minimum. The federal grant requires 10 down and 1 up. No pricing information is available at this time.

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Town of Brooklyn News

December 2017
Page 2 of 2

The Road Report

BACKGROUND

The town of Brooklyn maintains 42.4 miles of road. The annual expenditures for general road operations (plowing, salting, mowing, brush cutting, shoulder maintenance, patching and other repairs) and projects (reconstruction, seal coating, and crack sealing) consume a large part of the Town's annual budget.

Several years ago the Board adopted a comprehensive long term road management plan that sets as an average annual goal reconstruction of about 1 mile of road, selecting projects as needed based on traffic counts, road condition, and pavement age. The plan also calls for maintenance projects (such as sealcoating) on about 5-8 miles of roads based on a projected schedule and prevailing conditions. Adequate and timely maintenance is necessary to preserve pavement quality, such that major reconstruction is only required every 40 years on average.

2017 PROJECTS

A 1.5 mile length of Benson Road between Highway 92 and Amidon Road was reconstructed. Prior to the road work, a failing concrete bridge was replaced with a large metal culvert. The old asphalt was pulverized and relayed to form a solid base. Paving was done with a single pass (no center seam) 2-1/2 inch finished thickness asphalt pavement with

2-foot wide pavement kickouts at each unpaved driveway and field access.

Almost nine miles of sealcoating were done on Amidon (East end), Glenway, Legler, Mortensen (West end), Sandy Hook (South end) and Yarwood Roads. For the first time, the town has sealcoated a road one year after new asphalt placement (Yarwood Road was reconstructed in 2016). Research from several State Departments of Transportation indicate that the life of new asphalt can be significantly prolonged by adding a sealcoat the year following placement. Early sealcoating fills any small cracks in the new road surface, thus preventing water infiltration and (ice) damage. The town has opted to incorporate this procedure to protect its investments in high quality roads.

2018 and 2019 PROJECTS

Selection of road segments for major reconstruction and maintenance is based on the annual road inspection and available traffic count information. Provisional plans for 2018 and 2019 include reconstruction of 1-2 miles of road. Additionally, maintenance (such as sealcoating and crack sealing) will be applied to 5-8 miles of roads each year. Regular maintenance significantly prolongs pavement life and thus the need for costly reconstruction. It also improves ride quality.

Looking for a volunteer opportunity? The Town of Brooklyn is in search of a Planning Commission Member and an Evansville Fire District Representative. Please contact a Board Member or the Clerk.

To Salt or Not to Salt - That is the Question

In the coming snow & ice season, the town of Brooklyn is planning on experimenting with a salt/sand mixture on our Town roads. Similar mixtures are currently being utilized by our surrounding communities -towns of Dunn, Oregon, Rutland and Dane County.

The question is when is a salt/sand mixture most effective, how great a proportion should be used and when should it be applied. Salt costs about \$75 per ton while road sand is about \$8 per ton. Economically speaking, replacing a ton of salt usage with a ton of sand can save money. Currently, we use between 350 and 500 tons of salt per year depending upon the amount of ice.

Ice management is a tricky subject. Briefly, salt should be on any surface other than dirt or gravel. Sand should be used on gravel or dirt surfaces. Salt is used as an anti-icer or a de-icer and is best put down before it snows to prevent snow and ice from bonding to the surface.

Using a sand/salt mix is sometimes beneficial, sometimes not. By mixing salt with the sand, each is prevented from freezing into an unmanageable lump. Increasing the salt to sand ratio increases the melting action. Sand has a zero melting action.

Salt removes the ice from the road, melting it as long as the temperature is not too low. Sand can be used effectively at any temperature. As long as it is spread over the ice it will provide the necessary traction. Sand, while effective at managing ice, doesn't melt the stuff either. Sand works by improving traction over ice, not removing ice. This makes sense when you consider that the goal of de-icing a road isn't just to melt ice, it's to make the road safe and drivable which is exactly what sand accomplishes.

Neither sand nor salt is a perfect solution for removing ice from the roads. However, they are the best current options that are widely available. Will a salt/sand mixture be effective for the town of Brooklyn? We really don't know. This is why we plan to experiment with some mixtures this winter. If it's effective in keeping our roads safe, reduces the use of straight salt and saves money then we'll consider it further.

If not, then there are the options of using pre-treated salt and/or pre-wetting culverts bridges and intersections. Its been offered that using beat juice can be a viable option. This is yet another discussion. First, we'll try the salt/sand mixture. Let us know what think. Your feedback is appreciated.

Fire & EMS needs Volunteers

Brooklyn Fire and EMS continues to recruit volunteer Firefighters and Emergency Medical Technicians. If you are interested in serving your community and learning new skills, we encourage you to look into the volunteer opportunities. Please call the station at 455-3812 or use the contact form at brooklynfireems.org. Bill's Supermarket provides support to Brooklyn Fire and EMS with a one percent reward on purchases at the store. Save your Bill's receipts and put them in the drop box in the fire station parking lot.

A few sections of the town are served by Fire and EMS services based in Albany, Belleville and Evansville. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact your local Fire/EMS department.