



Town of Brooklyn News

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Tax Collection

The Green County Treasurer's office collects Real Estate & Personal Property taxes for the Town of Brooklyn. You may mail your payment or stop by the Green County Courthouse during 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; State Bank of Cross Plains - Brooklyn & New Glarus; Monona Bank - Belleville and Brooklyn; and Greenwoods State Bank - Monticello. Online payments can be made at www.co.green.wi.gov with a debit or credit card, but the surcharge is 2.35%.

Town Recycling Center News

The Town has faced many challenges this year resulting in an equal number of changes at our Recycling Center. For years the Town has stored tires within our facility, keeping costs on collection commensurate with our disposal costs so as to discourage illegal dumping. In order to avoid a fire hazard, we have added an external storage container outside the facility to safely store tires in a dry environment.

We apologize if you were affected by the early closures of the Recycling Center early in the year. We normally experience a spike in volume around the holidays which last year was compounded by a breakdown of the compacting equipment causing us to close early. The Town has since sold the old equipment and are using a newer model tractor for compacting. We are also budgeted to add one new recycling and one trash dumpster by the end of the year to avoid such early closures this winter.

Nationally, trade conflicts have caused China, the ultimate destination for most recycled materials, to place greater restrictions on acceptance of materials. This has caused recyclers such as Pellitteri to increase their charges. Prices received from the sale of aluminum cans, etc. used to offset operating costs have dropped. There is high likelihood the costs of operating in today's market will cause the Town to seek an increase in tipping fees next year. Please watch for updates.

The Center's winter hours are 8 am-4 pm every Saturday. We live in a beautiful community in which we can all take pride. When considering consumer purchases, we urge residents to do what they can to reduce materials that go to landfills and recycling wherever possible. - *Kevin Santulis*

Contact Information

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608-455-6411
www.townofbrooklyn.org

Chairman
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Clerk
Chris Gallagher
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608-455-6411
Office Hours:
Tues. 1PM - 4PM
unless otherwise posted or
by appointment

Treasurer
Russell Cichy
russcichy@gmail.com
608-220-4508

Town Board Meetings are held the 2nd Monday of each month at 8pm.

Highway Committee
Hans Herweijer, Chairman
608-455-2729
brooklyn.highway@gmail.com

Plan Commission
James Kramer, Chairman
608-225-1802

Recycling Committee
Kevin Santulis, Chairman
ksantulis@gmail.com
608-455-1523

Building Inspector
SAFEbuilt
Tony Fockler - Cert. Bldg. Inspector
608-576-1434

New Communications Tower & Fiber Optic Project

Bug Tussel, a Green Bay-based wireless internet provider, has leased land from the Town and constructed a 300-foot communications tower at the Recycling Center. The tower, one of 19 towers planned or in operation in Green County, will provide wireless internet service in a five-mile radius. The tower also carries AT&T cell phone service.

The Town will receive annual rent payments of \$3,600. The rent payments will be deposited in the Town's general fund and will offset that amount otherwise raised by property taxes. Additional rent will be received when other carriers are added to the tower. Future users are expected to be public safety agencies and mobile phone companies.

The southern part of the Town will be served by Bug Tussel's tower near Attica on Nye Rd. in the Town of Exeter.

Frontier Communications completed installation of new fiber optic junction boxes in the 455 telephone exchange. Trenching crews will lay fiber optic cable to the boxes before the end of 2020, which will hopefully allow Frontier to offer internet connections at substantially higher speeds. - *John Marx*

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 collected through fees and penalties being placed on your property tax bill and/or other charges. You must provide:

- a completed application together with
 - a current rabies vaccination certificate (or copy),
 - a self-addressed stamped 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 with your check at the Recycle Center or the Town Hall during normal posted hours. Dog license fees are as follows: Spayed/Neutered \$8 each, Unspayed/Unneutered \$13, Multiple Dogs \$35 (up to 12 dogs, \$3 extra for each dog over 12).

Hometown Herald in Brodhead Ceases Publication

In September, the Town's Official publication paper, Hometown Herald of Albany, ceased publication. The Town has selected *The Oregon Observer* in Oregon, WI as the new publication paper, effective immediately.

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The Road Report

The Town of Brooklyn maintains 43 miles of road. In order to keep the quality of these roads, maintenance is performed regularly. Smaller maintenance projects, such as filling potholes and shoulder repairs, are completed by Brian Smith, the Town's patrolman. Thanks to his great efforts, small problems do not turn into big problems.

Larger maintenance projects are outsourced. These consist of patching failed areas, crack sealing, seal coating and drainage improvements. Seal coating entails spraying liquid asphalt followed immediately by a layer of gravel. This fills any small cracks in the pavement, thus preventing ice damage and the creation of larger cracks and holes. It also creates a new wear layer on top of the pavement.

While these measure help maintain quality and extend the life of the pavement, there is still a need for complete replacement. After decades, the asphalt deteriorates, extensive cracking occurs, ruts form, and the road base may deform. At that point it is simply a better investment to completely resurface the road. This consists of grinding up the old asphalt, grading to form a properly shaped road, and laying new asphalt. Culverts are replaced at the same time, if necessary.

The lifetime of a rural road is typically quoted as 40 years. Taking the ~40 year life span and 43 miles to maintain, the Town aims to fully replace 1 mile of road each year (on average). In 2018, 2.51 miles of Brooklyn-Albany Road were reconstructed. This project used the available road reconstruction funds for 2018 & 2019, thus no reconstruction projects were started in 2019. Maintenance is shared with the Town of Albany; parts not done are the responsibility of Albany.

Seal coating is done every 5-8 years depending on wear and traffic. The Town Patrolman, members of the Town Board, and the Highway

Committee tour all roads every spring to review conditions and prioritize projects. In 2019, these included patching of weak spots on Kelly and Zweifel Road, seal coating on Brooklyn-Albany and Zweifel Road, and spreading and grading new gravel on Yarwood Road West of Cty. Hwy. E. Ditches were deepened on Glenway, Horan, and Mortensen Road to improve drainage and help prevent ice damage and future cracking.

No decisions have been made yet for 2020. To further guide decisions, traffic counts are done on all road sections during the summer. These are performed by town residents Barb and Steve Sackett. They provide valuable data, which very few other towns have – thank you! Traffic counts are increasing on most Town roads, resulting in greater wear. There is an increase in very heavy vehicles (multi-axle trucks, farm equipment), which produce disproportional wear.

The Board, upon advice from the Highway Committee (5 volunteers), tries to allocate funds to achieve the greatest road maintenance value. The cost for all road work has increased significantly over the last few years. We now estimate that pavement replacement costs \$145,000 per mile and seal coating \$15,000 per mile.

State funds for road maintenance will increase slightly this year, after many years of stagnation. The Board also applies for grant support whenever possible, which may offset small portions of project costs. Nonetheless, to keep up with required road maintenance, an increase in funding was desired and approved at the electors meeting on 10/22.

In all—with the support of the electors—we are optimistic that we can keep our roads in good shape. - *Hans Herweijer*

Brooklyn Fire Engine Replacement 2020

The Brooklyn Fire & EMS District will replace a 27-year old fire engine in 2020. The engine is one of two operated by the fire district. It is beyond the age that national standards indicate the engine should be retired. The Town of Brooklyn pays 28% of the Brooklyn district fire service costs including capital equipment purchases. The governing boards of the five municipalities served by the district met on September 18th and

unanimously approved this purchase. The engine is expected to cost \$665,000. Reserve funds held by the Fire District will cover \$174,000, leaving a balance of \$491,000. The Town's share, 28%, will be paid with borrowed funds. The annual cost of that loan will be added to the Town tax levy starting in 2021. - *John Marx*

Need Fire & EMS Volunteers; Bill's 1% Reward

The Brooklyn Fire and EMS District continues to recruit volunteer fire fighters, emergency medical technicians, and drivers. If you are interested in serving your community and learning new skills, we encourage you to look into volunteer opportunities. Please call the station at 455-3812 or use the contact form: brooklynfireems.org.

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 with these agencies, contact information is available on the town website. Look for the tab Fire / EMS and then Fire & EMS Provider Information.

Bill's Supermarket provides support to Brooklyn Fire and EMS with a one-percent reward on purchases made at the store. Save your Bill's receipts and put them in the drop box in the fire station parking lot. - *John Marx*

Chairman's Report

The Town strives to be a good steward of your tax dollars. We take advantage of state purchase programs for road salt, contract with Green County Highway Dept. at cost to help with road repairs, and apply for grants to help with road maintenance costs. Still, we find our Town budget falling behind each year as costs increase but demand for services doesn't. At the Special Meeting of the Electors on 10/22, the electors of the Town voted to allow an Excess of Levy

which will enable a larger road construction budget. As outlined in the Road Report above, this will help to offset rising costs and keep our roads maintained as best we can.

As hard as the Board works to keep the Town in good shape, none of it would be possible without the continued support of the residents and committee volunteers who help to keep the town running. Thank you!

- *The Board*