



TOWN OF BROOKLYN

Annual Newsletter - December 2020

Contact Information

Brooklyn Town Hall

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Chair

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Office Hours:
Tues. 1PM - 4PM
unless otherwise posted or
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Treasurer

Russell Cichy
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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

Parks Commissioner

Kathy Pennington
kmicpenn@sbcglobal.net
773-636-0501

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 debit or credit card with a 2.35% surcharge.

Brooklyn Fire & EMS Update

The Brooklyn Fire & EMS District has proposed a management restructuring plan designed to improve day-time staffing. A full-time fire chief would be hired and available to staff both fire and EMS vehicles during weekdays, along with existing paid part-time EMTs. Fire and EMS volunteers would continue to staff equipment evenings and weekends. As of this writing, the proposal is opposed by the Village of Brooklyn, one of the five municipalities that fund the district. The village has requested the adoption of a strategic plan prior to considering management changes. The four townships, which provide the majority of funding, support the management restructuring. Negotiations are continuing.

The District is replacing a 27-year old fire engine. The new engine is scheduled to be in service by the end of 2020. The engine is one of two operated by the fire district, along with water tankers and trucks designed to fight off-road incidents. The new engine was designed to service both fire and medical calls. Medical calls are 63 percent of the district's work.

-- John Marx, Town Representative to the Brooklyn Fire District Commission

Liberty Pole Hill Park & Brooklyn Area Veteran's Memorial

Liberty Pole Hill Park is a three-acre sweet spot atop of a quarried hill west of Brooklyn on Route 92. This summer, Lucas Snow led a group of scouts in planting seven new Maple trees as part of his Eagle Scout Badge Project. The Friends of the Park donated funds to help sponsor this event. We appreciate their generous gift! Liberty Pole Hill Park is a quiet sanctuary for reunions, meetings, events or small gatherings. Check out the Town website for details and Covid-19 protocols.

Brooklyn Area Veterans Memorial Park honors veterans who have served or are currently serving in U.S. Military. The BAVM council is an all-volunteer group working to recognize those for their courage and sacrifices. Mark your calendars to attend our fund raiser, Maggie Mae & Heartland Country Band with guest singer, Leroy "Elvis" Peterson, on May 1, 2021 at Oregon High School Performing Arts Center. More information will be available as we get closer to the event. Visit our website on how you can join us in recognizing our brave heroes:
www.brooklynveteransmemorial.org

-- Kathy Pennington, Parks Commissioner

All Fire & EMS Departments Need Volunteers

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 at 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 at the store. Save your Bill's receipts and put them in the drop box in the fire station parking lot.

-- John Marx, Town Representative to the Brooklyn Fire District Commission

The Road Report

To maintain the Town's 43 miles of road, the Board, upon recommendations by the Highway Committee, authorized the following projects in 2020: sealcoating on Amidon Rd., patching and sealcoating on Behnke Rd., and the replacement of six culverts and complete reconstruction of Smith Rd (between Amidon and Yarwood) and King Rd (between Highway E and Smith).

The main goal for all activities is to maintain the highest quality roads, while keeping the cost reasonable. Defects such as potholes are filled as soon as possible. Every few years, a sealcoat will be applied to fill minor cracks and to add a wear layer. Roads with higher traffic counts (such as Amidon Rd.) will see more frequent sealcoating than lower traffic count roads. At times, such maintenance activities are not sufficient and complete reconstruction is necessary. This was the case for Smith Rd. and the short section of King Rd., with very old, deteriorating road surfaces and failing culverts. Replacement of culverts alone has a major impact on a road, as each site has to be excavated, refilled, and repaved. Such patches seldom result in a good road bed. Complete reconstruction, immediately following the replacement of the culverts, makes the most sense.

Plans for next year include further maintenance activities (patching and sealcoating) and likely reconstructing approximately one mile of road. Final decisions will be made next spring after winter damage can be assessed and reviewed by the Highway Committee and Town Board.

-- Hans Herweijer, Highway Committee Chair

Snow Pushed onto Town Roads

With winter approaching, The Town of Brooklyn Town Board wishes to remind everyone that depositing snow or ice from your driveway onto the highway or highway shoulders is not only dangerous, but illegal. This not only applies to you, the homeowner/landowner, but also to contractors hired under your direction. Please do not plow your snow onto Town Right-of-Way. Thank you for doing your part in keeping our roads safe.

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
- a current rabies vaccination certificate (or copy)
- a self-addressed stamped envelope (for your license and rabies certificate to be mailed back to you)

Send payment 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 hours.

Dog license fees: Spayed/Neutered \$8 ea., Unspayed/Unneutered \$13 ea., Multiple Dogs \$35 (up to 12 dogs, \$3 extra for each dog over 12).

Internet Options in the Town of Brooklyn

Bug Tussel, the wireless internet provider leasing land from the town for the 300-foot communications tower at the town recycling center, is operational. Town residents are eligible for a discount on Bug Tussel's monthly service rate. Their 25 Mbps service is \$50 plus taxes and fees for town residents.

Frontier Communications completed installation of new fiber optic lines in the 455 telephone exchange. Frontier offers 25 Mbps service in most of the exchange area; it may not be available in areas on the fringe.

The town website has a list of all the broadband internet providers serving the town. See www.townofbrooklyn.org and look under the Community tab for Internet Service Providers.

-- John Marx, Broadband Commissioner

Town Chair's Report

The year 2020 will be difficult to forget. Everyone has been directly or indirectly affected by the pandemic and the daily barrage of news reports of politics, weather, and fear.

I am happy to report that despite all of that, the Town of Brooklyn has been able to maintain and rebuild necessary roadwork and perform the day to day functions of the Town. The continued support of people like you, volunteers, and dedicated employees make this possible.

If you have not had a chance to visit our Veterans memorial or Liberty Pole park, please do so. These two locations exemplify the same generous support of neighbors like you.

The regular monthly meetings continue, the various Town committee members contribute, and the people's business gets done.

The year 2021 will see our Town continue moving forward. It's about time for some good news for a change!

-- Garth Langhammer, Town Chair