



TOWN OF BROOKLYN

Annual Newsletter - December 2022

Brooklyn Town Hall

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www.townofbrooklyn.org

Chair

Kathy Pennington
pennington.townofbrooklyn@gmail.com
773-636-0501

1st Supervisor

Jeffrey McNeely
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608-628-6975

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Clerk

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

Treasurer

Russell Cichy
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608-220-4508

Town Board Meetings are held the 2nd Monday of each month at 7:30 PM.

Highway Committee

Hans Herweijer, Chair
brooklyn.highway@gmail.com

Planning Commission

James Kramer, Chair
608-225-1802

Recycling Committee

Kevin Santulis, Chair
ksantulis@gmail.com
608-455-1523

Parks Commissioner

Kathy Pennington
pennington.townofbrooklyn@gmail.com
773-636-0501

Broadband and Brooklyn Fire & EMS

John Marx
608-455-1037

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: Bank of New Glarus - Monroe, Belleville, Brodhead, Juda, & New Glarus; State Bank of Cross Plains - Brooklyn & New Glarus; Monona Bank - Belleville & Brooklyn. Payments can be made at www.co.green.wi.gov with debit or credit, but incur a 2.35% surcharge; payments made with an e-check will incur a \$1.50 surcharge.

Recycling Center Bag Fee Increases to \$4 on January 1st

Due to rising costs, the bag fee for garbage at the Recycle Center will increase from \$3 to \$4 per 32-gallon bag or equivalent on January 1st, 2023. Recycling will remain free. Please reference the "Recycling Rules, Costs & Best Practices" section of the Town website to ensure that materials are making it into the appropriate containers. — *Kevin Santulis, Recycling Committee Chair*

Brooklyn Fire & EMS Update

The Brooklyn Fire & EMS District appointed a full-time fire chief, Mason Barber, in January 2022. Mason has extensive experience as a firefighter with Brooklyn, Evansville, and Stoughton where he was an officer. The Chief is available to staff both fire and EMS vehicles during weekdays, along with existing paid part-time EMTs. Fire and EMS volunteers will continue to staff equipment evenings and weekends. Leif Spilde continues to serve as Assistant Chief-Fire and Justin Wicik serves as Assistant Chief-Medical. The UW Department of Emergency Medicine has been selected as the Brooklyn District Medical Director. The UW team of physicians provides advice and direction on medical procedures, as well as specialized training, and assures annual license credentials are in place.

The District received a state grant of \$89,005 toward a new ambulance to be delivered in 2024. Ambulances are replaced on a ten-year rotation. Engines and water tenders are replaced at 25 years. The town of Brooklyn share of the District budget will be \$124,010 in 2023, or \$12.16 per month per district resident. District personnel responded to 344 emergency calls in 2021, of which 249 were medical incidents, 75 fire related, and 20 traffic crashes.

— *John Marx, Town Representative to the Brooklyn Fire District Commission*

Liberty Pole Hill Park & Brooklyn Area Veteran's Memorial

A "shoutout of appreciation" to Boy Scout Troop 168 for conducting spring clean-up at Liberty Pole Hill. The additional manpower saved time and accomplished much to improve the beauty of the park. I encourage all residents to visit Liberty Pole Hill, host a meeting, or gather there with friends. For pavilion reservations, contact the Town Clerk.

We had a successful Memorial Day Remembrance Ceremony at the Brooklyn Area Veterans Memorial. We appreciate your support and contributions to the memorial. If you are interested in a paver or wall engraving, visit the memorial's website at brooklynveteransmemorial.org.

All requests must be submitted by April 15 to be completed by Memorial Day. We look forward to seeing you next year!

— *Kathy Pennington, Parks Commissioner*

All Fire & EMS Departments Need Volunteers

The Brooklyn Fire and EMS District continues to recruit volunteer firefighters, emergency medical technicians, and drivers. If you are interested in serving your community and learning new skills, 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's website: townofbrooklyn.org. Look for the tab "Departments" and then click on "Fire / EMS".

Save your Bill's Supermarket receipts and put them in the drop box in the fire station parking lot: the district gets a 1% reward on each one.

— *John Marx, Town Rep. to District Commission*

Town Chair's Report

The Town has accomplished a lot this year despite ongoing monetary and pandemic challenges. The Town Board remains vigilant to provide each of you a community with safe roads and a timely Fire/EMS response while balancing the budget. Over 70% of the levy is spent on Highway & Public Safety. In 2022, the Town applied for and was awarded a substantial road grant, locked in equipment pricing for multiple years, received a recycling grant, and accepted the second installment of ARPA funds. These wide-ranging fiscal accomplishments prevented a request for increase in levy for 2023. Improving Internet access remains a priority, but is a slow-moving effort at both the Town and County level.

I applaud the tireless efforts of the Town's employees, the Town Board, and the Town's volunteer committee members. Your honest feedback, countless hours, and dedication are greatly appreciated. It has contributed immeasurably to the success of our community. Thank you!

As the Town's leadership begins to plan for the future, we need your feedback. If anyone is interested in volunteering within the community, please call the Town Clerk. If you have any suggestions, questions, or comments, do not hesitate to email or call any of us. Lastly, you are always invited to attend monthly Town Board or Committee meetings. Check out the Town's website for up to date information and subscribe to Town alerts to stay informed with what the Town is doing for you.

— *Kathy Pennington, Town Chair*

The Road Report

The most exciting development is that the Town received a grant award under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Bill to resurface the Brooklyn part of Alpine Road (the western half). This project will be managed by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, with the Town responsible for 20% of the cost. The application was prepared by members of the Highway Committee with extensive help from Town resident Mark Vesperman. This grant was one of only 20 awards out of 240 applications! The work will be done in 2023. In preparation for this project, engineering plans were drafted and several culverts were replaced. The Town of Oregon has indicated that they will likely resurface their half of Alpine Road (the eastern half) as well next year.

As indicated in last year's newsletter, a greater length of roads was resurfaced in 2021 than in a typical year in anticipation of higher prices in 2022. Therefore, the Town only completed sealcoating, shouldering, and repairs this past year. For 2023, besides the Alpine Road resurfacing project, we anticipate extensive patching and sealcoating activities. Final project decisions will be made after the yearly road tour in April 2023. — *Hans Herweijer, Highway Committee Chair*

Town Elections — April 2023

All Town Board positions including Clerk & Treasurer are up for re-election on a 2-year cycle, with the next elections occurring in April of 2023. Those interested in running for local office need to begin paperwork in December 2022. For more information, check out the "Run for Local Office" packet on our website, located under the "Government" tab, then click "Election Information". Questions? Email our Town Clerk!

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. Please see the Town website for up-to-date fees and application process, located under the "Community" tab, click "Forms & Permits." Questions? Contact Town Treasurer Russ Cichy at 608-220-4508.

Internet Options in the Town of Brooklyn

There are several internet options available in the Town, including Bug Tussel (residents are eligible for a discount), Frontier, Litewire, and others. The town website has a list of all the broadband internet providers serving the town. See townofbrooklyn.org and look under the "Community" tab for "Internet Service Providers". — *John Marx, Broadband Commissioner*

Snow & Other Hazards in Road & Right-Of-Way

With winter approaching, the Town of Brooklyn 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 (33' from the center of the road). In addition, items stored in the road right-of-way create a hazard for both our Town Patrolman, other residents, and drivers. Please keep your section of the right-of-way empty. Thank you for doing your part in keeping our roads safe.

Mailbox Replacement

If your mailbox gets hit by the Town's snowplow, the Town has a policy in place to pay a one-time \$25 reimbursement for a new mailbox. Your box must be physically hit by the plow, not merely by snow wash. If this happens, take a photo of the hit box and send it to clerk@townofbrooklynwi.gov.