

# Village of Brooklyn

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## PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE MINUTES November 24, 2009

Meeting was called to order at 6:08 p.m. in the lower level of the Community Building. Present were Mark Bruner and Helen McCord. Also present were Public Works Director Bob Anderson, Village President Nadine Walsten, guest speaker Jeff Roe-Wisconsin DNR Urban Forestry Coordinator, Paul Douglas, and Traci Schaefer. Committee member Todd Klahn arrived at 6:11.

Motion: McCord/Bruner to approve the minutes from October 27, 2009. Motion carried.

Jeff Roe gave a presentation on the emerald ash borer. He stated that the DNR is not making specific recommendations for communities that are not in the infestation zones at this time. He presented the options that are available, and stated that communities are deciding for themselves which plan to implement. Options include the following:

- Eradication of some or all of the ash trees within the municipal limits. Communities that have implemented this plan have started with younger or damaged trees, and selectively and systematically removed older, more established trees, and replaced them with different species of trees that are not affected by infestation or disease.
- Treatment of trees with insecticides. There are several versions available, including ground treatment which will be absorbed by the trees root system, or injection directly into the tree. For optimal results, injection should begin before infestation takes hold, as the insecticides take from one to several years to become effective. Costs vary at this time, due to the various chemicals in use and the size of the specific trees. This is a good option for trees that are healthy and mature, and pose no threat to the community. Cost of ongoing treatment of the trees is the deciding factor to this option.
- No action at all. This is the least expensive option upfront. This poses a risk to the community however. Once the borers are within range of the community, an immediate action plan must be implemented. In the case of the Village of Brooklyn, the possibility exists that all ash trees will need to be removed at one time. If infestation occurs to the point where the trees are dead, as well as the trees that are located in areas that are difficult to access, these trees must be removed professionally. Current pricing for tree removal cannot be used to calculate cost, as the tree removal services will likely be removing trees from other municipalities as well and rates will likely be significantly higher.

Jeff distributed literature which explains the options, assists in identification of the borer, and helps homeowners to make their decision. He also gave a brief history of the borer, and its

arrival in the US and how it has spread. He answered questions from the public as a close to his presentation.

Bob gave an update on the WWTP. The rebuilt mixer has been installed and is working properly. Dick Michada from Rawson will be presenting an incentive to the Village, since this piece of equipment represents a variation from the contract. Dori Hanson brought a concern to Public Works about a low spot along the driveway to the WWTP. This area has been filled with black dirt. Bob hopes to have the contract closed out by December 15.

There is no news about the Alley south of Hotel Street. Costs to repave it will be between \$25-30,000. This includes removal of the existing blacktop to verify the integrity of the substrate prior to replacement of the blacktop. A portion of the alley, which is located on 2 private properties, will need to be removed from the total price for disposition by the property owners. Strand will survey Hotel St. and Smithfield Park for repaving and installation of an underground storm sewer, at a cost not to exceed \$2500.

Discussion was held concerning the jurisdictional transfer agreement between the County and the Village for Highway MM. Todd pointed that neither option, accepting the agreement or not having the road paved, benefit the Village. Motion: McCord/Klahn to recommend to the Village Board that we accept the agreement. Motion carried.

Jeff Smith from Alliant has been in contact with Bob concerning running our wells between 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. This could possibly result in significant savings to the Village. More information will follow.

PDC is evaluating the Village properties to determine ways that the Village can reduce the amount of energy consumed.

Motion: Klahn/McCord to adjourn at 8:15 p.m. Motion carried.