



BROOKLYN VILLAGE NEWS
March 12, 2010

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Police Department - 455-2131
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Public Works Dept. - 455-1842
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Municipal Court - 455-1168
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Village Board - Nadine Walsten, President
Economic Development – vacant, Chair
Finance – Tim Belter, Chair
Ordinance – Tim Belter, Chair

Personnel – Helen McCord, Chair
Planning/Zoning – Nadine Walsten, Chair
Public Works – Mark Bruner, Chair
Recreation – Janeen Podgorski, Chair
Safety – Nadine Walsten, Chair

BROOKLYN SNO HORNETS
DANCE AND RAFFLE

Saturday, March 20, 2010 – 8:30pm-12:30am
Music by: "Electric Blue"



SPRING ELECTION

Tuesday, April 6th, 2010 – polls open 7am-8pm
Village Trustees on the ballot will be as follows: (vote for 3 max)

Steven Lust
Mark Bruner
Dean Van Den Eng



*****Write-in candidates, please contact the Clerk's Office.**

BROOKLYN VILLAGE BOARD MEETING MINUTES
March 8, 2010

Village President, Nadine Walsten, called the meeting to order at 6:32 pm on March 8, 2010, with Trustees Klahn, McCord, Bruner, Belter, Irwin-Vitella present. Trustee Layton was not present. Others present were Clerk Strause, Chief Barger, PW Director Anderson, David Natzke, Traci Schaefer, and Susan Gallmeier.

No public comments-were offered. President Walsten stated she had left a phone message for Jason Thomas (letter submitted to Board last month), but he has not returned her phone call.

Trustee Klahn moved, second Belter, carried to approve the minutes of Jan 11, 2010. Trustee Bruner abstained. Trustee Bruner moved, second Belter, carried to approve the minutes of Feb 8, 2010. Trustee Klahn and McCord abstained.

President Walsten gave an update on the **Regional Transit Authority** that may have a referendum to add a ½ cent sales tax for transportation infrastructure. It is possible that a bus service will be created to pick up commuters in surrounding areas around Madison. Commuter rail to Madison may also be reactivated in the distant future. **State's smoking ban** will be effective July 5, 2010 for all public places. State law preempts any local ordinances related to smoking. Fines are \$100 a day starting with the second offense. Local police will be in charge of enforcement. Wis DOT is gathering information for a **corridor study on Hwy 14 to Janesville** starting at the St. Hwy 92 intersection. Report to be available early summer. **New Official's Workshop** in Madison will be on May 14th. This workshop, sponsored by the League of Municipalities, is very worthwhile for all Trustees. **Chief Barger and Officer Engelhart will be sworn in** next month. Walsten stated she will be starting **listening sessions** very soon so that the public can comment and discuss their concerns.

Clerk Strause reported on the fourth quarter **5% franchise fee received** from Charter Communications in the amount of \$1740.12 for Dane County and \$1126.41 for Green County. This revenue has remained stable in the past year. **Administration and claims services for the WI Office of the Commissioner of Insurance** will be provided by two separate companies starting April 1, 2010. Administrative services will be provided by ASU Group (who currently handles the entire program), and claims service will be provided by Crawford & Company. The current bill for property and equipment coverage is \$4757 less a one time credit authorized by the Legislature in the amount of \$2368 leaving a balance of \$2389 which is included in this month's bills. **Posters from the Dane County Cultural Affairs Commission** are now available in the Clerk's Office.

President Walsten gave an update on **DaneCom** (Dane County interoperable radio communication system). Resolution 233 as amended supports the cost sharing and capacity principles for the system. Walsten drafted a letter to County Executive Kathleen Falk supporting the proposed system. Trustee Bruner stated we will pay one way or another for this necessary system. Trustee Belter stated he felt the system would be better if the county paid 100% of the cost. Eventually the entire communication system needs to be tied together. With a part time police department, usage/cost would be minimum if charges are based on call time. Walsten moved, second Irwin-Vitella, carried to approve Dane County's Resolution #233 as amended with a letter to County Executive Kathleen Falk stating the Village's reservations before fully committing.

Trustee Irwin-Vitella will put a draft policy together for a **legislative and political issues communications policy**. The draft will be emailed to Clerk Strause who will send it out Board members to review before the April 12th meeting. Trustee Bruner moved, second Klahn, carried to postpone the Village's job description for a **Village historian**.

Trustee Bruner moved, second Klahn, carried to approve the consent agenda: 1) payment of invoices for March in the amount of \$54,200.28; 2) temporary operator licenses for March 20-21, 2010 for Roland Arndt, Larry Arndt, Perry Jorgensen for Brooklyn Sno Hornets annual dance; 3) Resolution 2010-02 Tax Collection Responsibility of Treasurer (Permanent); 4) Resolution #2010-03 to Support the Dane County Complete Count Census Committee.

President Walsten stated she called legal counsel at the League of Municipalities regarding the **sale of the WWTP Somat unit and automatic samplers** in December that was approved in Public Works Committee but not brought to the Board for approval. Claire Silverman, League attorney, recommended information on the sale be brought before

the Board and the Board needs to approve or disapprove the sale. Without Board approval it is not a legal sale. PW Director Anderson and Trustee Bruner reported the Somat unit (used to remove liquid from solids) was a part of the old treatment plant equipment that was removed during construction as the new plant did not need this equipment. It was purchased used from Reedsburg 8-10 years ago for \$18,000. It was advertised for sale on Wisconsin Rural Water website asking \$10,000 or best offer. Abbyland Foods, Inc., Abbotsburg offered \$5,000 which the PW committee approved on 12-22-09. Trustee Klahn stated the sale should have come to board first but at the time was considered a part of the destroyed WWTP. PW Chair, Trustee Bruner, stated he takes full responsibility as chair of the committee as he was not aware of the Ordinance stating it should have come to the Board. Walsten pointed out that all property belongs to the Village and can only be sold/disposed of by the Board. Trustee Bruner moved, second Klahn to sell the Somat unit and two automatic samplers. President Walsten moved to amend the motion to include the name of the company, Abbyland Foods, Inc, and the samplers to other municipalities, second Irwin-Vitella, carried. Original motion also carried.

Creating **financial guidelines for committees**; creating a policy for disposal and selling of Village property was discussed. Walsten stated she would like this referred to the finance committee to sort out what kind of guidelines are needed for all committees. Trustee Bruner stated if an item is in the budget and within the bidding guidelines, the committee can approve the purchase. Trustee Belter will create draft guidelines for managing budgets within a committee and will reference Chapter 33 for the sale of equipment. The draft will go to April's finance meeting.

Clarification of open meeting law and WI Stats. regarding attendance by elected officials at open meetings and closed sessions was discussed. Open meeting law requires notice on a committee agenda regarding a possible quorum of the Village Board and that no action will be taken as a Board. WI Stats 19.89 specifically states no member of a governmental body may be excluded from any meeting of the Board or any meeting of a subunit of the Board. It is a violation of state law if a Board member is not allowed to attend a committee meeting. If the Board member notifies the chair of the committee that they will be in attendance at the committee meeting, the Chair is required by open meeting law to put a statement on the agenda. If the chair does not include the proper language on the agenda, the chair is in violation of State law. If the Board member comes to a committee meeting and does not notify the Chair and there is quorum of the Board present, the Board member is in violation. A Trustee can attend any meeting in open or closed session. Open meeting law legal opinion can be found in the League of Municipality May-June 2009 magazine.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: **Public Works: WWTP construction** still is not ready to close out as there are problems with lawn hydrants at the treatment plant freezing up and furnace work to be redone. CD Smith has asked for retainage to be reduced to 3% but PW Director Anderson stated he is against this because of history of work not being completed once retainage is reduced. Warranty will not start on hydrants until they are working properly. **Fix a leak Week is March 15-21.** Information from the PSC on how to save water will be in the next newsletter. Dana Leikness from the **Oregon girl's softball organization** contacted Anderson regarding work that the organization wants to do at the small diamond dug outs by building a fence to protect the players sitting on the bench and lawn roll the diamond. They have raised funds to pay for this, and there would be no cost to the Village.

Trustee Bruner reported on the **EAB public informational meeting** for questions and comments to be held on March 29 from 6-6:30 pm at the Community Building. The PW committee meeting will follow. This will be advertised in the newsletter and on the LED sign. Anderson and Bruner will be attending an EAB workshop.

Planning and Zoning: Public participation plan for revision of comprehensive plan as recommended by Planning and Zoning was presented. President Walsten moved, second Belter, carried to approve this plan by Resolution #2010-03.

Ordinance committee did not meet.

Safety: Per the committee's recommendation, Trustee Klahn moved, second Irwin-Vitella to pay \$75 for a child's swing set that was destroyed last year from a party that rented the Community Building. Chief Barger handed out his activity report. Barger is working on a policy for "use of force". Barger talked about National credentialing and the need for some type of identification for all employees including elected officials. Records management system will be discussed next week at the monthly Chief's meeting. A possible change from New World to a new system will hopefully not cost anything with funds coming from a County grant. Coasters were handed out from the department's participation in the "click it, ticket it" program. Vacation request forms will be available in the Clerk's office for

those residents going on vacation and wanting a security watch. Holiday overtime pay for officers will be on the personnel committee agenda next week. Using the Village logo for police uniform patches was encouraged. Purchasing Village logo decals for Village vehicles, and Village stationery was also encouraged.

Fire / EMS-Quarterly meeting will be next month. **Personnel** committee will meet on March 17th. The Ad hoc personnel committee will not be meeting until reorganization as Trustee Layton resigned as of today. **EDC** will meet Thurs night 3/11. **Recreation** committee will meet Wed night, 3/10. Movie night has ended for the season until next October. **Bluegrass** will be meeting 3/10. **July 4th**: Trustee Bruner moved, second McCord, carried to accept Trustee Belter's resignation as chair. Belter abstained. **Recycling**-no meeting. **Website** met last week and will meet again tomorrow. Trustee Belter moved, second Bruner, carried to approve Steve Wagner as a new committee member. Trustee McCord moved, second Klahn, carried to accept the resignation of Janeen Podgorski as chair of the committee. At the last meeting, members reviewed items on the website that need to be updated/deleted, etc. Each Trustee is asked to look at the website and let the Clerk know of changes, additions, deletions. The Village's website needs to be kept up to date with the listing of committee's members, mission statement and goals, minutes, agendas.

Finance: Village deposits are over collateralized right now with tax collection finalized. Trustee McCord moved, second Bruner, carried to close the Clerk's Office Aug 18-20 to allow Strause and Brewer to attend the **annual WMCA Conference** in Green Bay. Trustee Bruner moved, second Belter, carried to approve Deputy Clerk Brewer attending the UW Green Bay **Clerk's Institute July 12-16th**. Trustee Irwin-Vitella moved, second Klahn, carried to approve the letter written by President Walsten to the **Oregon Youth Center** Director requesting quarterly activity reports for clear justification and understanding of the programs. Also requested is a funding request by September during budget time as continued support of the Center cannot be assumed.

Bidding procedures as approved last month was presented in table format. Trustee Irwin-Vitella moved, second Klahn, carried to amend the policy to add under "Informal Quotation" 5) Sealed quotes shall be opened by two department heads or one department head and at least one Trustee.

Trustee Klahn moved, second Bruner, carried to adjourn 8:35 pm

Carol A. Strause, MMC

ZUMBATHON HAS BROOKLYN DANCING FOR HEARTS

A two-hour Zumbathon on Saturday, March 27 will have the Brooklyn community dancing toward better health and donating to the American Heart Association. The Zumbathon will be from 1-3 p.m. on Saturday, March 27 at the Brooklyn Community Building, 102 N. Rutland Avenue in Brooklyn. A donation of \$10 at the door will go to the American Heart Association and future Get Fit Brooklyn fitness programs.

Get Fit Brooklyn is a community movement dreamed up by the husband and wife team Steve and Tari Lust. The goal is to promote fitness for all ages in the Brooklyn community. Get Fit Brooklyn started with community bike rides last summer. It grew with weekly fitness classes this winter and the Zumbathon and Health Fair on March 27.

The Lust family plans to start a program for children and seniors in the community to promote activity and better health. They also hope to organize a team of volunteers to help elderly residents with snow removal and yard work to help keep Brooklyn looking "fit."

Zumba is a popular aerobics class with moves based on Latin dance. The Zumbathon will be two hours long with two instructors in the gymnasium of the Brooklyn Community Building. Free CPR classes and spinal and blood pressure screenings will be from 12-4 in the basement of the community building. The Zumbathon is a \$10 donation fee at the door, with proceeds going to the American Heart Association and future Get Fit Brooklyn programs. The health screenings are free.

For more information, contact Tari Lust at 455-1326 or by e-mail, tarim@charter.net.

President's Letter
March, 2010
Nadine S. Walsten

April 6th is the Spring election. Three trustee positions are up for election. Fortunately, two new individuals and one incumbent have filed to be elected. However, this means there will be no campaign because there is no choice to be made. The issues facing Brooklyn are profound and a campaign brings out the information you need to know: do you feel these candidates understand these issues? will they represent the citizens or a single agenda? and what experiences or ideas do they bring to the Board to address the problems we face? I feel like each Spring I write this letter where I encourage people to contact the Village Clerk and obtain information on how to conduct a write-in campaign. And my reason stays the same: every Village trustee should have to compete for their seat on the Board because that is where you as a voter get to know who your representative will be. It is important to understand I am not passing judgment on the candidates on the ballot.

If you are interested in running for the Board at this time, however, you would need to contact the Village Clerk and conduct a write-in campaign. It takes more effort and shoe leather to get elected, but having done it twice successfully, I know it can be done and having four compete for 3 seats makes for a much healthier local government. To run for the Board, you don't need to have all the answers but you need to be willing to ask the questions, be prepared and be willing to learn. If you want to have a conversation about the expectations of a trustee, time commitment, etc., send me an email at nwalsten@charter.net or call at 455-1457 or talk to a current trustee. All of us are open to help you. You can also find old minutes of the Board and committees on the village website www.brooklynwi.gov.

As I pointed out in the previous Presidents' letter, the Village will be asking for information and input from the residents this spring and early summer. The first of these opportunities will be on Monday, March 22 at 6:30 pm—7:30 pm, when the Planning and Zoning Commission will be having an Open House on the proposed changes in the Village's zoning (land use) map. We want your opinion, especially on the proposed business districts, and hope you will stop in and give us your reactions. We are amending our Comprehensive Plan, specifically the Land Use and Economic Development chapters and having your input is the first step. (See the announcement for the Emerald Ash Borer Management Plan elsewhere in this newsletter from Public Works.)

Secondly, I will be holding several listening sessions where small groups of invited residents from different neighborhoods can come together for "coffee and conversation" and share their concerns and ideas on how to deal with our current crisis and make our Village stronger. Our community needs your commitment to make it a better place and sharing your feelings about Brooklyn is an essential part of this process.

Oh yes—watch out for the patches of ice that come and go this time of year. I thought I was stepping in a puddle and it was water on top of ice. I now have a cast on my right hand/wrist and I've learned my left hand is a poor substitute when it comes to writing, feeding myself, etc. etc..

DON'T FORGET TO VOTE ON APRIL 6!!

PUBLIC WORKS DEPT

Brush Pickup Has Begun (2nd Tues. of each month)

Please place brush in the terrace at the curb, staying away from any electrical/telephone equipment. All cut ends need to be placed in the same direction, parallel to the street. (Yard waste will not be picked up – this can be taken to the compost site at the Treatment Plant)

Spring Clean Up Dumpster

Fri. April 23rd - 12 noon – 7 pm
Sat. April 24th - 10 am – 4 pm
Sun. April 25th - 10 am – 2 pm
Mon thru Fri - 7 am – 7 pm
(Apr 26-30)
Sat. May 1st - 10 am – 4 pm
Sun. May 2nd - 10 am – 2 pm

Dumpster will be located at the Treatment Plant – Windy Lane (S. end of Village on Hwy 104)

STREET SWEEPING

The street sweeper is coming on
Tuesday, April 20th.

Please have all vehicles off the
street by 5:00am that day.



RECREATION COMMITTEE



This annual event sponsored by the Recreation Committee will be held on Thursday, May 6th. Please be thinking about what recipe you would like to make as a donation. More information coming in next month's newsletter.

ZUMBATHON

A two-hour Zumbathon on Saturday, March 27 will have the Brooklyn community dancing toward better health and donating to the American Heart Association. The Zumbathon will be from 1-3 p.m. on Saturday, March 27 at the Brooklyn Community Building, 102 N. Rutland Avenue in Brooklyn. A donation of \$10 at the door will go to the American Heart Association and future Get Fit Brooklyn fitness programs.



VILLAGE-WIDE
GARAGE SALES
April 24th & 25th

Ads will be in the Oregon
Observer and Great Dane.
Watch the Observer for more
information or call
835-6677.



**EMERALD ASH BORER
PUBLIC INFO MEETING**

Monday, March 29th
6:00-6:30pm
Brooklyn Community Building.
Public Works meeting to follow.

OPEN HOUSE

**For proposed updated
Comprehensive Plan**
Monday, March 22nd
6:30 pm—7:30 pm
Brooklyn Community Bldg.
The Planning and Zoning
Commission will be having an
Open House on the proposed
changes in the Village's zoning
(land use) map. We want your
opinion, especially on the
proposed business districts, and
hope you will stop in and give us
your reactions. We are amending
our Comprehensive Plan,
specifically the Land Use and
Economic Development chapters
and having your input is the first
step.

**Want to Cut Your
Water Bill by 10
Percent?**

Don't let your water and money go
down the drain! Older toilets can use
up to 80 percent more water per flush
than new high-efficiency models.
Leaky faucets can waste more than
2,700 gallons per year. Replace older
products with new ones that have
EPA's WaterSense label and start
saving today.

**Save Water, Save
Energy**

It takes a lot of energy to deliver and
treat the water you use everyday.
Letting your faucet run for five minutes
uses about as much energy as leaving
a 60-watt light bulb on for 14 hours. By
reducing household water use you
can reduce the energy required to
supply and treat public water supplies.

Fix Leaks!

**The average American home can
waste as much as 11,000 gallons
of water every year due to
running toilets, dripping faucets,
and other household leaks.**



**Public Service Commission
of Wisconsin**

P.O. Box 7854
Madison, WI 53707-7854
Telephone: 608-266-9600
Toll free: 888-816-3831
Consumer affairs: 266-2001 / 800-225-7729
TTY: 608-267-1479 / 800-251-8345
Website: <http://psc.wi.gov>
*The Public Service Commission of
Wisconsin is an independent state
agency that oversees more than 1,100
Wisconsin public utilities that provide
natural gas, electricity, heat, steam,
water and telecommunications services.*

VILLAGE OF BROOKLYN

NOTICE OF: OPEN BOOK & BOARD OF REVIEW

Open Book will be held APRIL 27, 2010, from 5:00 – 7:00 PM.

at the Village Hall.

All property owners in the Village of Brooklyn may review and examine the 2010 proposed property assessment roll and discuss their concerns with the Village Assessor.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the **Board of Review** for the Village of Brooklyn, of Dane/Green County shall hold its meeting on **13th day of May, 2010, from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm (or until adjourned)** at the Brooklyn Village Hall, 102 N. Rutland, Brooklyn, WI.

Please be advised of the following requirements to appear before the Board of Review and procedural requirements if appearing before the Board:

No person shall be allowed to appear before the Board of Review, to testify to the Board by telephone or to contest the amount of any assessment of real or personal property if the person has refused a reasonable written request by certified mail of the Assessor to view such property.

After the first meeting of the Board of Review and before the Board's final adjournment, no person who is scheduled to appear before the Board of Review may contact, or provide information to, a member of the Board about the person's objection except at a session of the Board.

No person may appear before the Board of Review, testify to the Board by telephone or contest the amount of assessment unless, at least 48 hours before the first meeting of the Board or at least 48 hours before the objection is heard if the objection is allowed because the person has been granted a waiver of the 48-hour notice of an intent to file a written objection by appearing before the Board during the first two hours of the meeting and showing good cause for failure to meet the 48-hour notice requirement and files a written objection, that the person provides to the Clerk of the Board of Review notice as to whether the person will ask for removal of any Board members and, if so, which member will be removed and the person's reasonable estimate of the length of time that the hearing will take.

When appearing before the Board, the person shall specify, in writing, the person's estimate of the value of the land and of the improvements that are the subject of the person's objection and specify the information that the person used to arrive at that estimate.

No person may appear before the Board of Review, testify to the Board by telephone or subject or object to a valuation; if that valuation was made by the Assessor or the Objector using the income method; unless the person supplies the Assessor all of the information about income and expenses, as specified in the manual under Sec. 73.02(2a), that the Assessor requests.

The Village of Brooklyn has an ordinance for the confidentiality of information about income and expenses that is provided to the Assessor under this paragraph which provides exemptions for persons using information in the discharge of duties imposed by law or of the duties of their office or by order of a court. The information that is provided under this paragraph, unless a court determined that it is inaccurate, is not subject to the right of inspection and copying under Section 19.35(1) of Wis Statutes.

The Board shall hear upon oath, by telephone, all ill or disabled persons who present to the Board a letter from a physician, surgeon or osteopath that confirms their illness or disability. No other persons may testify by telephone.

Village of Brooklyn
Carol Strause, Clerk Treasurer

Posted: March 11, 2010