



**BROOKLYN VILLAGE NEWS**  
**March 17, 2011**

Clerk's Office - 455-4201  
Fax - 455-1385  
PO Box 189 102 N Rutland Ave  
[Email: clerk@brooklynwi.gov](mailto:clerk@brooklynwi.gov)

Police Department - 455-2131  
Fax - 455-1799  
[Email: police@brooklynwi.gov](mailto:police@brooklynwi.gov)

Public Works Dept. - 455-1842  
Fax - 455-1501  
102 Windy Lane  
[Email: brooklynpw@frontier.com](mailto:brooklynpw@frontier.com)

Municipal Court - 455-1168  
[Email: brooklynjudge@charter.net](mailto:brooklynjudge@charter.net)

Village Board - Nadine Walsten, President  
Economic Development – Heather Kirkpatrick, Chair  
Finance – Dean Van Den Eng, Chair  
Ordinance – Steve Lust, Chair

Personnel – Dean Van Den Eng, Chair  
Planning/Zoning – Nadine Walsten, Chair  
Public Works – Mark Bruner, Chair  
Recreation – Jill Van Den Eng, Chair  
Safety – Todd Klahn, Chair

**BROOKLYN SNO HORNETS**  
**DANCE AND RAFFLE**

**Saturday, March 19, 2011 – 8:30pm-12:30am**  
**Music by: DJ "Red Hot Ken Scott"**



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**SPRING ELECTION**



Tuesday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2011 – polls open 7am-8pm  
Village Trustees on the ballot will be as follows: (vote for 3 max)

**Dorothy Selje-Frandy**  
**Todd Klahn**  
**Jessica Hawkey**

Candidates for Village President are: (vote for 1)

**Nadine Walsten**  
**Robert Anderson**

**BROOKLYN VILLAGE BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**March 14, 2011**

The Village Board meeting was called to order on March 14, 2011 at 6:30 pm by President Walsten. Trustees present were Todd Klahn, Steve Lust, Mark Bruner, David Natzke, Dorothy Frandy. Trustee Van Den Eng was absent. Others present were Clerk Strause, Police Chief Barger, PW Assistant Director, Leif Spilde, Kevin Mullen, Sue McCallum.

**Public Comments:** Sue McCallum spoke on her concern of a business on Hotel St. parking trucks in the building where there are other businesses located which she states is against state regulations for vehicles with gas engines. McCallum stated she called land owners in the Village to see if the business could be a fit with other businesses in the Village that are properly zoned. McCallum also stated she talked to the building and zoning administrator about this violation. Trustee Bruner stated the business is not in violation because it has a four hour firewall between businesses. McCallum stated as this business does not have a conditional use for this General Business zoning district, it looks like the Village approved it. President Walsten stated the zoning code is being revised and the issue of zoning violation needs to be resolved and will put it on the Planning and Zoning agenda. This business has relocated to the Hotel St. location as a temporary move as he is looking for land in the Village to build. McCallum stated she wants the trucks to be removed right away as this is a known violation.

Trustee Bruner moved, second Lust, carried to approve the minutes of Feb 14<sup>th</sup>, 2011. Trustee Klahn moved, second Frandy, carried to approve the Committee of the Whole minutes of March 1, 2011. Trustee Natzke abstained.

**President Walsten** reported on the New Officials' Workshop, sponsored by the League of Municipalities to be held on May 13th. Trustee should contact the Clerk if attending. This workshop deals with local issues and is a great opportunity to talk to other officials. Annual League regional meeting will be held in Lake Delton on May 26th and Walsten will be attending.

**Clerk Strause** reported on the April 5th election with the polls open from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. Many issues are on the ballot including a Dane County referendum. Ballots arrived today so absentee voting can begin.

**Public Works-** Assistant Director Spilde gave his monthly report. New uniforms arrived today. The new hand held meter reader was installed with the arrival of a new FCC license (previous one expired and meter reader could not be installed last month). The hand held is now in service, new meters are here (existing ones were recalled), and now waiting for transmitter boxes to arrive in order to begin the installation of new meters. DNR engineer, Tom Stunkard, is now officially retired after 20 years. Water System Emergency Response Plan was presented and is a federal requirement. Spilde stated he got the template from WI Rural Water and added the Village's information. Trustee Klahn moved, second Bruner, carried to approve the Village's Water System Emergency Response Plan. The DNR sanitary survey was conducted on 1-27-20 1 1 to evaluate the water system. A report was sent dated 2-14-11 regarding the inspection on both wells and the water tower. A forty-five day response from the Village was required with Assistant Director Spilde explaining the report and presenting his response letter to DNR. Ordinances for a cross connection program and private well abandonment will be discussed at Public Works Committee. Geographic sampling at different locations has started, Emergency Operations Plan was just adopted, sampling faucets will be installed in each well, screen on the air vacuum relief valve at well #2 has been replaced, eye wash stations will be replaced at both wells soon, and backflow/back siphonage protection for loading station will be purchased. **Safety-**Chief Barger's monthly reports were reviewed. Policy #201 was presented for an update on Vehicle Operations and Pursuit implementing the Dept of Justice changes in training criteria. Trustee Klahn moved, second Bruner, carried to approve the amended policy. Photo emergency identification tags with an expiration date would cost \$5.50 each with the one time set up fee of \$45 probably waived if we use the same type tags now carried by the Police Department. Public Works and Clerk's Office staff could be done at any time. Trustee tags could be done at the reorganizational meeting on April 19th. Klahn moved, second Frandy, carried to implement the I.D. tax at a cost not to exceed \$100. Grant dollars (estimated at \$2900) for the new radios will be discussed at the next committee meeting. The two radios, portable and car radio, are waiting to be picked up. The new radios costing \$7,000 will be compliant to the new DaneCom system. Chief Barger and Assist. PW Director Spilde left the meeting at 7:05 p.m. Kevin Mullen, financial consultant with Hutchinson Shockey Erley & Co, Milwaukee, gave a presentation on **restructuring the Village's debt** including the 2012 refinancing of the 2007 General Fund BAN and 2008 Sewer BAN. The restructuring objectives would be to minimize rate increases to the sewer utility and provide flexibility for future Village capital needs. The total General Obligation (G.O.) debt at 12/31/11 will be \$764,444 with the Village's

debt capacity at \$3,879,636. The outstanding revenue bond debt for the sewer utility is \$4,642,099 which includes a Bond Anticipation Note (BAN) that needs to be refinanced in 2012 in the amount of \$2,015,000. The estimated annual sewer debt service is \$357,500 with the current sewer rate structure (2011) estimated to produce \$324,000 of net revenue. Mullen suggested we should also look at possibly refinancing a 2002 water revenue bond with a lower

interest rate from the St Trust Fund Loan program. Bond is callable in 2012. Water bond could use G.O. refinancing saving \$1 0,000-\$ 15,000 annually. Having the Water Utility pay the Sewer Utility for leasing space at the WWTP for equipment storage was discussed. The money saved on the water refinancing could be used to pay the lease to the sewer dept. The sewer debt coverage requirement by DOA would be 5% of debt service if backed by G.O. refinancing rather than 10% required if backed by a revenue bond and could save \$16,250 annually. The State Trust Fund Loan program is an easy loan program with a low interest rate and few fees involved. A combined CWF loan should also be investigated with G.O. backing to reduce costs.

Mullen stated the Village needs to identify what the long term needs are. G.O. debt is worth exploring unless the Village will have substantial needs over the next 5-10 years. Parameters for charging rent to the Water Utility for storage of vehicles and equipment needs to be investigated. How much of the 2007 BAN will be spent needs to be determined so that the debt can be lowered before refinancing in 2012. Mullen stated his services for calling the 2002 water bond and refinancing the 2007 BAN would be \$5,000 and \$5,000 to refinance the 2008 Sewer BAN which would include the investigation on a possible lease between the Water and Sewer Utilities. The State Trust Fund Loan and CWF program will probably both be used in the refinancing process. The refinancing issue will go back to the April finance meeting to approve a contract with Hutchinson Shockey Erley & Co. and further discuss the funding possibilities.

**New Business** – American Legion Post 160 requests to install a **20' flag pole in Mt. Hope Cemetery** at no cost to the Village. The flag would be illuminated with a solar light system. Flags would be provided by the Legion Post. Trustee Bruner moved, second Klahn, carried to approve this request with Public Works to determine the location in the cemetery.

An update on the **State's Budget Repair Bill** with preliminary cost cuts was given by Clerk Strause and President Walsten. The State proposes an 8.8% cut in Shared Revenue and 10% cut in Transportation Aids which would total \$20,946 for the Village along with an additional \$4893 loss in recycling revenue if that program is closed. State mandates for employees to pay 12% of health insurance premiums and 5.8% on their WRS pension plan would cost the employees approximately \$19,000. Personnel committee will further discuss this at their next meeting. **Deleting Chapter 21, Assemblage of Large Number of People**, with some sections becoming a part of Chapter 20 Parks and Other Public Places was presented. Trustee Bruner moved, second Klahn, carried to approve deleting Chapter 21 with the rewritten sections back to Ordinance committee to merge with the rest of Chapter 20.

**Update for Committee of the Whole hiring process for Public Works Director** -The ads have been posted on the League of Municipalities, American Public Works Association, WI Rural Water Association and the Village websites. The deadline to accept applications was revised from April 8th to April 15th because the printed version of the ad for the League magazine will not come out until early April. President Walsten stated she is waiting for information from the President of the State Public Works Association to help with the creation of an expert panel to interview applicants. Walsten also informed the Trustees that when they meet as "Committee of the Whole", they will be paid at committee rates.

A statement was read from Trustee Van Den Eng regarding the **2007 BAN**. "Due to time constraints and a shortage of manpower at Public Works, we are still waiting for quotes on the projects that were identified at the Jan 10th, 2011 Board meeting. The committee understands that this is not the top priority right now for the Public Works department and it can wait a while longer. Walsten has expressed EDC's desire that expenses pertaining to expanding the Village's Urban Service Area be paid for using BAN funds. EDC would also like to replace signs in Smithfield Park, Community building, and an entrance sign on Hwy 104, totaling approximately \$3,000." Bruner moved, second Klahn, carried to postpone further discussion until the April meeting.

President Walsten reported Judge Beth Cox, Oregon, is willing to be a **substitute judge for the Village**. Reorganization of the court system will need to be in place by the May court session. Court Clerk, Shirley Hardy, has not done these duties since Oct-Nov as Judge Glasier has been taking care of this. However, Glasier indicated she is having problems getting on line to file reports. Walsten is waiting for a reply from Chief Judge Foust, Dane County, for clarification regarding a substitute judge but requested permission to contact Atty Christopher if needed to get a legal opinion on our court system. Trustee Frandy moved, second Klahn, carried to approve an amount not to exceed \$500 to contact our attorney if Judge Foust does not give clear clarification. NAY: Trustee Natzke.

Update on **UBT lease offer** - No new information has been received on the construction costs for remodeling of the Bank for a Clerk's office. This information should be available for the April meeting.

Trustee Bruner moved, second Natzke, carried to approve the **Consent agenda** as follows: payment of March 2011 invoices; Temporary Operator licenses for SnoHornets Snowmobile Club for March 19-20 annual dance: Jason Cleasby, Robert Zurfluh, Perry Jorgensen; Operator License for Kristi Schmidt.

**Committee Reports: Planning and Zoning**-Trustee Bruner moved, second Klahn, carried to approve hiring General Engineering to revise Chapter 48 Zoning for \$3500. **Ordinance**-Trustee Lust stated the next meeting is 3-21 and will discuss Chapter 49 trees with Chapter 32 approved by Safety committee. Recodification is getting closer to completion. Chapter 23 corrections will also be discussed. **Personnel**-Trustee Van Den Eng's report was read: "Due to time constraints and the fact that we have months worth of data, Public Works employees were informed that the Personnel committee no longer needs the 30 minute increment worksheets filled out. The committee will start work on a job description at the 3/17 meeting for a Water/Wastewater Supervisor. The description will be given to the Public Works Committee. The exact title of the position will be debated." Overtime hours were reported. **EDC** will be meeting within the next 2 weeks. **Recreation**- July 4<sup>th</sup> fireworks probably will happen with donations so far from the Brooklyn Community Bank \$1,000 and \$500 from an anonymous donor. Dime a Dip to be held on May 5th will also have a silent auction. Committee is recruiting members. **Emergency Management Plan** needed some reorganizing with Barger and Spilde finalizing these changes. Next meeting on March 29th will offer a final draft that will then be emailed to all Trustees for review. **Bluegrass**-no report. **Recycling** met with a recommendation for the Board to approve continuing the recycling program. Walsten moved, second Klahn, carried to continue the recycling program. Walsten moved, second Klahn, carried to approve Spring Clean Up Days April 22-May 1st. Walsten moved, second Frandy, carried to have the Electronics RoundUp this spring, date to be determined. Website-Read from Van Den Eng's report - "Town Web Design, municipal software, has begun to put together our new website. Our goal is to have everything up and running by March 3 1st, so that we can thoroughly test it before going live. The committee feels that many residents could take advantage of paying utility bills, property taxes, fines, and permits by credit card through our website if this option was available. Using Official Payments would allow the Village to accept credit card payments without a fee to the Village. A transaction fee would instead be paid by the user to Official Payments." Bruner moved, second Frandy, carried to approve Official Payments to process credit card transactions via our website. This feature will be incorporated into the rollout of our new site. Finance-Bruner moved, second Natzke, carried to approve the Clerk attending the League of WI Municipalities Mutual Insurance Policyholder Conference in Wisconsin Dells on April 14-15.

Trustee Bruner moved, second Lust, carried to adjourn at 9:45 p.m.  
 Carol A. Strause, Clerk-Treas.

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**Is Money Tight?  
 Call the FoodShare Helpline at 1-877-FOOD-635.**

Many individuals and families are struggling to make ends meet. Would you like to see your budget stretch further? FoodShare Wisconsin may be able to help.

FoodShare is a food assistance program and is for anyone with low or no income. This includes working people, students or those receiving Social Security, SSI, SSDI or Unemployment. You could receive monthly deposits on a debit-like card to help with your food purchases and allow you to use that money on other necessities.

If your income is less than the amount shown for your household size, chances are good that you will be eligible. Call the FoodShare Helpline today to complete a confidential prescreening and make an appointment for free application assistance.

Family Size	Maximum Income Guideline
1	\$1,806
2	\$2,430
3	\$3,052
4	\$3,676
5	\$4,300

**A FoodShare Outreach Specialist is available in Green County for application assistance. Call the FoodShare Helpline at 1-877-366-3635 today!**

**President's Letter  
March, 2011**

**Nadine S. Walsten**

You may have noticed there has been a flurry of activity at the Capitol for the past few weeks! It has been a remarkable experience to see the thousands of residents of this state converge upon the Capitol steps. The crowd has been impressive not only in its size, but how multigenerational it is. Demonstrations against the Vietnam War, civil and women's rights in the 60's and 70's were overwhelmingly people in their 20s and 30s. Of course the media focus has been on the collective bargaining rights issues, but the budget cuts under consideration have far reaching social as well as economic consequences which brings young, old, disabled, farmers, union, non-union, married or single. The bill passed 3/10 only effected union bargaining, and retirement and health insurance premium benefits being withheld from all public employees wages (union and non-union). The budget repair bill and the biennial budget 2011-2013 must still be passed.

I'm opposed to many of the proposed cuts because of the damaging effects it will have on our state and local municipal budgets and services, if the bills are passed as is, and the financial impact it may have on almost all residents. The research is clear: Local budgets in Wisconsin are rarely "fat and bloated"; in fact, most budgets are balanced with cuts and more cuts, and tax increases are held to a minimum. Historically, when the state has had budget problems, it combined raising state revenues with cuts, but with a cap on raising taxes on all levels, the cuts to local levels is greater and, this time, exceptionally harsh. Add on potential cuts from county and federal programs and this will intensify the shortfall in our collective pockets. What effect it will have on our Senior Center, Bookmobile service, to say nothing about our schools, health care access, public services, etc. is unknown.

But there is another reason why I am opposed to the proposed solution to our state deficit. I lived in Colorado in the early '90s when TABOR, a tax revolt bill similar to the Walker budget cut proposals, was passed. The state economy nose-dived and, as I recall, the entire program was scrapped after approximately 18 months.

TABOR was about taxes and other municipal costs but the result was the human cost was extreme. The poor were devastated. The crime rate shot up as people shoplifted, mugged, broke-in, car jacked, and of course, engaged in drug trafficking. The only market hiring then was the Colombian drug cartel and a city that had an average crime rate in the '80s soon found itself dealing with the desperation of an increasing number of people without funds. I don't mean to be dramatic but we can cut programs and snowplowing but there is a critical mass in human need and when that point is reached, it won't be denied. We all ready have more hungry families and Food Pantry use statewide than previous years and now we are adding these cuts. I wonder if Wisconsin will be Denver all over again.

State cuts proposed to Brooklyn so far are decreased shared revenue payments, and elimination of the recycling grant and transportation aids, totaling approximately \$25,000. These numbers aren't final but approximately \$15,000 will be cut in shared revenue, \$4900 (recycling grant), and \$5600 (transportation aids). (Shared revenue is the money from state income taxes that is sent back to the local municipality—approx. \$160,000/annually for Brooklyn.) On 1/1/2012, each full-time Village employee will have approximately \$200/pay period deducted from their net income as both the health insurance and retirement deductions go into effect. This will reduce wages by approximately \$26,000 in 2012. The Finance Committee and the Board are looking at how we can absorb these cuts and deductions, but as I said earlier, with a mandated no property tax increase (or increase by referendum only), we will have to be cutting services or overtime or what?? to live within these cuts and not lose staff.

April 5<sup>th</sup> is our Spring Election. As you know, I'm running for re-election AS President and my opponent is Bob Anderson. Dorothy Frandy and Todd Klahn, incumbents, and, Jessica Hawkey, newcomer, are on the ballot for the open positions for trustee. All elections are important but this one is especially important as Brooklyn prepares to meet the municipal and personal challenges ahead.

**VOTE!! TUESDAY, APRIL 5<sup>th</sup>!**

# PUBLIC WORKS DEPT

## Brush Pickup Has Begun

(2<sup>nd</sup> 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 22<sup>nd</sup> - 12noon– 7pm  
 Sat. April 23<sup>rd</sup> - 10 am– 4pm  
 Sun. April 24<sup>th</sup> - 10 am – 2 pm  
 MonthruFri - 7 am – 7pm  
 (Apr 25-29)  
 Sat. April 30<sup>th</sup> - 10 am– 4pm  
 Sun. May 1<sup>st</sup> - 10 am– 2pm

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

Thursday, April 14<sup>th</sup>.

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



# POLICE DEPARTMENT

## Activity for February

Theft	3
Traffic Incidents	33
Traffic Citations	7
Traffic Warnings	5
Misc Comp/Arrests	5
Assists	9
Financial	2
Domestic/Family	3
Open Records	4
911 Disconnect	1
Animal	1
Parking citations	10
Suspicious activity	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>85</b>

### **Law of the Month: Animals at Large Brooklyn Ordinance 25.02**

It shall be unlawful for the owner or keeper of any animal to permit the same to run at large within the Village limits. Such animal shall be deemed to be at large unless under the control of a person by means of a chain, rope or cord of sufficient strength to control the action of the animal. For the purpose of this section, the phrase “running at large” embraces all places within the village except the owner’s or keeper’s premises and includes all streets, alley’s, sidewalks or other public property, which may be about the owner’s premises. Failure to adhere to the above Ordinance could result in a citation and a penalty of up to \$235.00.

Please keep your pets under your control for the safety of yourself and the rest of the Village of Brooklyn residents.

Brooklyn Police Department

## VILLAGE-WIDE

## GARAGE SALES

*April 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>*

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



## ARTISTS WANTED FOR DEPOT DAYS

We are reaching out to local artists to join us for an art show during the 15<sup>th</sup> annual "Depot Days in Brooklyn" April 30 and May 1. There isn't an admission or booth fee for this show. We have guests from all over a tri-state region. For more information contact Marcy 608-575-2176 or email [marcy.waelti@yahoo.com](mailto:marcy.waelti@yahoo.com) for details. Festival website [www.depotdays.info](http://www.depotdays.info)

**SPRING ELECTION**  
**Tuesday, April 5<sup>th</sup>**  
**Polls will be open from**  
**7am– 8pm**  
**PLEASE COME OUT**  
**AND VOTE!!!**

## 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.*