

BROOKLYN VILLAGE NEWS

January 13, 2012

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

Police Department - 455-2131
Fax - 455-1799
Email: police@brooklynwi.gov

Public Works Dept. - 455-1842
Fax - 455-1501
102 Windy Lane
Email: publicworks@brooklynwi.gov

Municipal Court - 455-1168
Email: 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 – Steve Lust, Chair

REMINDER

The first installment of 2011 property taxes must be paid by
January 31st.

The Clerk's office is open M-F, 7am-5pm if you wish to pay in
person. Payments must be postmarked no later than 1/31/12.

Dog and cat licenses must be purchased by January 31st.

Village Ordinance states that all animals must be licensed.

Fees remain unchanged for 2012 – see inside for more details



BROOKLYN VILLAGE BOARD MEETING MINUTES

January 9, 2012

The Village Board meeting was called to order on January 9, 2012 at 6:31 pm by President Walsten. Trustees present were Steve Lust, Mark Bruner, Jessica Hawkey, Dorothy Frandy, Dean Van Den Eng, Todd Klahn. Others present were Clerk Strause, Police Chief Barger, Public Works Director Langer, and Brit Springer. Public Comments: none submitted.

Trustee Bruner moved, second Lust carried to approve the minutes of Dec 12, 2011. Trustee Van Den Eng abstained.

Trustee Frandy was to present the Recreation committee's three prizes for holiday decorating; however, the prize winners were not present at the meeting. The winners are 1st place \$100 – Dan and Vicki Olson, 2nd place \$50 – Terence Joyce, and 3rd place \$25 – Chad Paynter. Checks will be mailed to them.

President Walsten - no report

Clerk Strause stated the nomination process for three Village Trustee positions closed on January 3, 2012. The April ballot order will be 1) Susan Mc Callum, 2) Steven E Lust, 3) Dean Van Den Eng. Strause also gave an update on AB 182 and an amendment regarding prohibiting placing tenants' delinquent utility charges on the landlord's tax bill. The amendment would require the Village to report the delinquency on the consolidated court automation program case management system once the amount becomes a lien on the rental property, allows the landlord to commence action in municipal court to collect the past-due amount from the tenant, and permits the Village to collect an advance payment from the tenant as a condition of receiving the utility service. Strause stated she has again contacted Sen., Erpenbach and Rep Ringhand opposing AB 182 in its entirety. The League also does not support AB 182 although the amendment would be less problematic, it still makes it more difficult and costly for municipalities to collect on delinquent accounts.

Public Works: DPW radio purchase and second trunking issues continue to be discussed. An invoice to General Communications this month would pay for DPW's radios in the amount of \$7409.95. Because of the concern of communication coverage between DaneCom and WISCOM, the ordering of radios will be postponed at this time and the bill to General Communications pulled from the list of invoices to be paid. Communication between Green County and Dane is also a concern. Director Langer announced he has secured a **donation from Pellitteri Waste Systems for a new, wireless scoreboard for Legion Park** at a cost of \$3278 which includes installation. The scoreboard would be ordered from All American Scoreboard Company and would be installed in March or April. It would cost \$140 for a sign with Pellitteri's name placed under the scoreboard acknowledging who donated it. Pellitteri Waste values their partnership with the Village and the community which is why they agreed to this one time large gift donation. Trustee Bruner moved, second Klahn, carried to accept this generous donation from Pellitteri and have the Village pay for the \$140 sign. A thank you will be sent to Pellitteri.

Langer presented the map showing the **completed survey work done in Mt. Hope Cemetery** with accompanying Resolution #2012-01. Trustee Van Den Eng moved, second Frandy, carried to approve the Resolution that will be filed with the survey at the Register of Deeds Office. Cost to survey the old section may be investigated at a later date.

Langer reported that Spilde is working on year end reports. The new Toolcat arrived year end. Community Building southeast exit is now installed. Quotes were sent out to video Teddy St sewer main with McCann being the lowest quote and will be doing the work. RFQs for 2012 were also sent out for street sweeping and mowing and trimming at the cemetery. Langer stated an option on the RFQ is for a three year quote which would lock in the price. Weather still is not feasible to flood the ice rink as it would not stay frozen.

Director Langer reported that he has a **used flammable fuel cabinet** for sale for \$300. The cost new is \$900-1200. The cabinet needs to be painted. Public Works Committee has already approved this purchase from Langer. Consensus was to purchase the cabinet from Langer. Trustee Van Den Eng asked about some purchases that were labeled "replacement from theft" and questioned why he was not informed before the bills came in about the theft. Director Langer pointed out that because of confidentiality issues, he only notified Chief Barger and President Walsten. Chief Barger stated the investigation is ongoing with reports filed with the insurance company. Langer stated changes have been made and the Wastewater Treatment Plant area is more secure now for protection.

New Business: Exterior lighting for the Community Building was discussed. President Walsten reported that Eric Urtes, Strand Engineering, has been assisting with this project at no cost to the Village for his time.

Walsten offered pictures of lights from Madison Lighting and will further check online for compatible fixtures with the building's architecture. Walsten will present options to ED Committee also. Langer will get prices after a design has been chosen.

Trustee Van Den Eng moved, second Frandy, carried to approve the **\$5,000 contract to Quarles and Brady**, for bond counsel for the General Obligation Refunding Bond Issuance of \$858,786. This bond issue will refinance the 2007 BAN and the 2002 water revenue bond at an interest rate of .95% from Union Bank & Trust Company. Van Den Eng moved, second Klahn, carried to **approve Resolution #2012-02 Authorizing the Issuance and Sale of an \$858,786 General Obligation Refunding Bond** which will close on February 1, 2012.

Unfinished Business: Walsten moved, second Klahn, carried to **postpone mission and goals statement for 2012** until the Feb meeting. Walsten gave an update on the **Union Bank & Trust lease agreement**. Village Attorney Christopher's letter to Attorney Shannon, UBT's attorney, was reviewed. Christopher has identified parts of the lease he has recommended for change. UBT's Vice President, Steve Eager requested to meet with Walsten and Strause to discuss the changes in the lease. Consensus was to have Walsten, Strause, and Eager meet to review concerns in the attorney's letter. Discussion on the **Concealed Carry Law/Ordinance** and liability issues to post Village buildings was deferred at January Safety Committee meeting, thus no recommendations. Village of Oregon has adopted their ordinance and the Clerk will request a copy.

Municipal Court update: Walsten will contact Belleville's court system. There is still no feedback from DOT on the joint agreement offered between the Village and Town of Rutland on the **Hwy 14/92 drainage system**.

Consent Agenda: Frandy moved, second Van Den Eng, carried to pay all bills as presented, removing General Communication bill as previously discussed.

Committee Reports: Safety: Trustee Klahn moved, second Van Den Eng, carried to approve **Policy #110 Worthless Checks Procedure** with appendices and changes as noted. Trustee Van Den Eng moved, second Klahn, carried to approve **Policy #230 Sex Offender Registry Procedure**. Barger stated the department will be working with the Dept of Corrections and will verify if the registrant is living at the address where they are registered. The proposed language for the ordinance Authorizing the Police Department and Police Chief will be taken to the Ordinance Committee for review. Barger stated he had received approval on the DOT grant and will be ordering the radar unit. The demo speed board previously looked at has been sold so another speed board will be located. There were 901 police calls in 2011.

Planning and Zoning did not meet in Dec. Their next meeting will be Jan 23rd. **Ordinance** also did not meet in Dec but will be meeting Jan 16th. **Fire-EMS**-No report. The new EMS Director is Roseann Meixelsperger. **EDC** met on 12-20 and worked on revising Chapter 7 of the Comp Plan and will be meeting again soon.

Recreation-Frandy reported the committee is working on maybe having a fun run on Labor Day weekend and will be asking permission from the fire department. **Emergency Management** will be meeting Jan 18th to finalize forms for the binders.

Personnel -Van Den Eng presented a revised **Chapter 2.12 Village Retirement** of the Employee Manual so that the wording would comply with the Act 10 changes adopted by the Legislature in 2011. Van Den Eng moved, second Hawkey, carried to approve the rewrite with a correction changing the word "are" to "will be" referring to eligibility for an employee working at least 1200 hours and will be employed for at least one year from the employee's date of hire.

Finance: Van Den Eng reported \$932,000 was collected on 2011 real estate and personal property by 12/31/11 which is 42% for Green County and 42.5 % for Dane County. The Heart of Brooklyn began their after school program in the gymnasium on Jan 2nd and all is going well. Ad hoc Committees: Recycling - Walsten stated she is looking for committee members. Bluegrass-No update. Web - No update.

Bruner moved, second Klahn, carried to adjourn at 8:34 p.m.

Carol A. Strause, MMC, WCMC, CMTW

President's Letter
January 2012
Nadine S. Walsten

Happy New Year to all! May 2012 be kind, healthy and prosperous for you and yours. May economic conditions continue to improve, job opportunities increase and the suffering of Main Street appreciated by our public policy makers on all levels. If you know me, and many of you may not, I am passionate about bringing economic development to this Village, because without it, we cannot keep our taxes from rising, provide the services we need and improve our quality of life. A resident contacted me recently to express her disappointment with her decision to move to Brooklyn—"there is no Here, here" she said, frustrated she had to drive elsewhere for most of her shopping and basic services. Her assessment is accurate. Businesses can move here—and they have-- but they close or move on usually within one or two years, especially if dependent on local residents for support and trade. This revolving door will continue until more non-retail businesses bring customers and, ideally, bring jobs. Because the Economic Development Committee and the Planning Commission activities have been setting the stage for economic development, I am very excited that in 2012, if we have Board support, we will begin to see the results of their efforts. Most community planners, commercial development professionals think my chances of bringing businesses to Brooklyn are slim to none, or at best, "unlikely" but they agree Brooklyn will either move forward commercially or it will lose its economic opportunities to neighboring villages and bringing it back to life will be much more costly and incredibly difficult. We are seeing improvement, however, and I know this in my heart, we can bring commercial businesses to Brooklyn. Our location is ideal—there is no reason we can't make this work, but then, I'm the one that's crazy to believe this. If you feel as I do and want to add constructive, positive energy to this goal, let me know.

I have to correct a mistake in my last month's letter. I said our permanent part time law enforcement officer's hours were increased from 24 to 28 hours/week. That was wrong—Officer Engelhart's hours were increased from 28 to 32 hours/week. I apologize for this error.

One important item which has not been highlighted, is reporting on the results of our Community Survey conducted in September and analyzed in October/November. This survey provides input from you, the residents, to guide present and future Village decisions on a wide range of economic and development issues. There is not enough space in the newsletter to discuss the entire survey, but I will break this down over the next few months. I encourage you to get copies from the Clerk's office or visit the Village website www.brooklynwi.gov. When reviewing this survey, however, remember because the 122 respondents are households, there may be multiple answers, etc. so percentages may not add up to 100% for each question. This survey was based on other professional surveys for small villages, but we did not hire a professional firm to conduct this survey. That would have been the best option but the cost and time limitations prevented this. Each survey was mailed to each household and could be answered online or on hard copy. There was a representative distribution across age, reflecting the population age groups previously identified through census. Brooklyn is primarily a thirty to forty something town with young or elementary age children.

Additional demographic information of interest is as follows:

Length of time lived in the village: <5 years: 23%; 5-10 yrs: 34.4%; 11-20 yrs: 12.3%; >20 yrs: 30.3%. An overwhelming number of respondents (63.9%) work in Madison with Oregon next at 13.9%; Fitchburg at 9.8% and minor percentages listed for 13 other communities. Not working was .8%; retired was 9% and homebased or in the Village: 4.9%.

Question #2, the most important reasons chosen to move to Brooklyn are 1), rural/small town atmosphere; 2) cost of home; 3) accessibility/highway access; 4) quality of schools; 5) near family or friends; 6) appearance of home; and 7) low crime rate.

Question #3, do you expect the quality of life in Brooklyn to improve, stay the same, change little or worsen. Based on the written comments, several respondents confused the national economy with the local quality of life, but even so, most respondents (38%) believed the quality of life would remain the same.

Question #3, at what rate do you want to see the Village grow, was split between grow at the current rate (37.7% or 46 respondents) vs. faster than the current rate at 40.2% or 49 respondents. Twenty seven respondents did not want to see growth or want growth slower than the current rate, thus growth was supported by 78% or 95 of 122 respondents.

I will continue to report on the community survey, next month. Oh yes—I'm going to create a Village President Facebook page to improve communications between myself and the residents of Brooklyn. Nationally, face to face meetings are disappearing due to poor attendance, so surveys and social media are now the preferred methods for elected officials and governments to connect with their communities. I'd rather talk than text, so don't hesitate to call, email or write.

NOTES FROM PUBLIC WORKS

Snow Removal

All sidewalks must be cleared of snow within 24 hours of snowfall ending. Snow **may not** be put into the street.

“The owner or user of each mailbox shall, within twenty-four (24) hours after the end of each snowfall, remove all snow and ice which has fallen or accumulated in front of said mailbox, and shall remove the snow and ice away from the curb or area in front of the mailbox, a minimum of fifteen (15) feet on each side of said mailbox.”

Also, please clear snow from around fire hydrants and water meter readers.

The last Christmas tree pickup will be on Friday, January 27th. After that date, you must dispose of them yourself.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Activity for December

Theft	2
Traffic Incidents	25
Traffic crashes	1
Assists	12
Traffic citations	17
Traffic warnings	6
Open Records	3
Suspicious activity	1
Ordinance violation	9
911 disconnect	2
Misc comp/arrests	2
Drug charges/comp	1
Referral to D.A.	2
Domestic/family	2
Total	85



VILLAGE CLERK'S OFFICE

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*** * * REMINDER * * ***

Dog and cat licenses must be purchased by January 31st. If you have not previously registered your pet (age 6 mo. or older) with the Village, please provide a copy of a current rabies certificate. Also, if your pet was re-vaccinated during 2011, please provide a new certificate. The fee is as follows:

Neutered/Spayed dog - \$12

Unaltered dog - \$17

Cats - \$5

Village Ordinance states that all animals must be licensed. Only 3 dogs/cats are allowed per residence.

**There will be a Primary Election on
Tuesday, February 21st**

Polls will be open from

7 am – 8 pm

**Brooklyn Community Building
102 N. Rutland Ave.**

Please remember to bring your drivers license or state issued photo ID card due to recent election law changes. If not previously registered to vote, you may need to provide proof of residency.



Sat. February 4th – 7 pm
Community Building Gym
(102 N. Rutland Ave.)

Bring a blanket, bean bag, lawn chair
(with a blanket to put under your chair
to preserve the floor) to sit on
Refreshments will be sold.

Due to licensing restrictions, we
cannot advertise the name of the
movie but here's a clue: "The life of a
businessman begins to change after he
inherits six penguins. As he
transforms his apartment into a winter
wonderland, his professional side
starts to unravel." To find out what's
playing, please call 455-4201X44

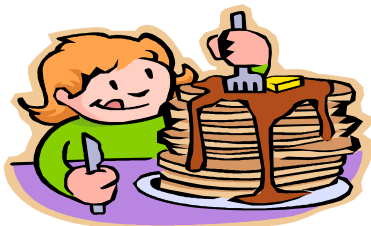
OREGON AREA SENIOR CENTER

219 PARK ST

PANCAKE BREAKFAST
AND BAKE SALE

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29th
7 AM - NOON

ADULTS - \$5 CHILDREN - \$2



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Brooklyn Fire and EMS
Departments are in desperate
need of Firefighters, EMT's and
Drivers. Training is provided and
a stipend is paid for runs.

Sleeping quarters at the station
have been completed so if you
know of anyone who lives in the
county who may be interested,
please pass this information on
to them.

For Fire/Driver information,
contact Phil Mortensen at 455-
3621. EMS - contact Roseann
Meixelsperger at 455-3812.



Brooklyn Cub Scouts Pack 352

29th Annual Chili Dinner

February 5, 2012

11am - 2pm

Brooklyn Community Building

\$5.00 All you can eat, or take home a gallon of
chili for \$25.00

****No Parking on Village Streets
1 am – 7 am. until April 15th**