



BROOKLYN VILLAGE NEWS
March 16, 2012

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

BROOKLYN SNO HORNETS
DANCE AND RAFFLE

Saturday, March 24, 2012 – 8:30pm-12:30am
Music by: DJ “Red Hot Ken Scott”



SPRING ELECTION

Tuesday, April 3rd, polls open 7am-8pm

Three Village Board trustees up for election:

Dean Van Den Eng (incumbent), Steve Lust (incumbent), and Susan McCallum

BROOKLYN VILLAGE BOARD MEETING MINUTES
March 12, 2012

The Village Board meeting was called to order on March 12, 2012 at 6:35 pm by President Walsten.

Trustees present were Steve Lust, Mark Bruner, Todd Klahn, Jessica Hawkey, Dorothy Frandy, Dean Van Den Eng. Others present were Clerk Strause, Police Chief Barger, Public Works Director Langer, Lyle & Pat Hawkey, Kyle Smith, Todd Galloway, Darlene Nelson Galloway, Traci Schaefer, Sue McCallum.

Public Comments: Pat Hawkey, Kyle Smith, Todd Galloway and Darlene Nelson Galloway all appeared to offer support for **keeping chickens** and requesting a Village ordinance to allow this. Hawkey stated some in the Village already have them and state chickens are not fowl as they are "domesticated poultry". Village ordinance does not allow the keeping of fowl. As other municipalities are adopting ordinances to allow for the keeping of chickens, Hawkey asked how to get this done as people really want chickens. An ordinance would establish how many could be kept, environment to be kept in, and health standards to be maintained. The Board's clarification on the definition of fowl is felt to include any domesticated feathered animals, i.e., ducks, turkeys, chickens.

Trustee Lust moved, second Frandy, carried to approve the minutes of February 13, 2012.

President Walsten reminded Trustees of the New Officials workshop on May 11 in Madison which is not just for new trustees as important information can be learned every year. The League's regional dinner meeting is on May 3rd in Barneveld. Anyone interested in attending should contact the clerk to make reservations. Walsten attended Ehler's Public Finance Seminar in Wis Dells, Feb 16-17 giving her report to the finance committee on the seminars attended, i.e. risk assessment, economic development grants and funding sources, and general session. Materials are available to review upon request. Feb 23rd was the Dane County CDBG hearing accepting projects that organizations and municipalities are needing assistance on. AB182 hearing was held on 2/28 by the Assembly Committee on Energy & Utilities. This bill would prohibit municipalities placing delinquent water bills on the tax roll. The amendment to this bill made some changes but still would be a burden on municipalities. Clerk Strause has been in contact with Rep Ringhand who stated she would register as opposed to the bill during the hearing.

Clerk Strause reported on the photo ID law which last week had a temporary injunction and today a permanent injunction that now will prohibit the law for future elections. This will probably be tied up in the court system for a long time and may change at a later date. Elections laws continuously change making it difficult to keep up with training of officials and printing of brochures to help the public understand the process. The Feb 21 primary had 236 voters with no provisional and no late absentees. There was no need for the local municipal Board of Canvass to meet under the new law which went into effect the day of the election, Feb 21st. Strause wanted to publicly thank Pat Hawkey for donating her election training time and time spent working the polls on Feb 21st.

Consent Agenda: Van Den Eng moved, second Frandy, carried to approve item #1 payment of March invoices, and #3 Approve Clerk/Treasurer Strause and Deputy Clerk/Treasurer Brewer's attendance at the WMCA conference in Middleton on August 22-24 and the fall Treasurer's Conference in Stevens Point on September 27-28 with the office being closed. Klahn moved, second Bruner, carried to approve temporary operator licenses for Robert Zurfluh, Perry Jorgensen, Mark Stephens for the Brooklyn SnoHornets Snowmobile Club, March 24-25, 2012, annual dance, at the Community Bldg. Bruner moved, second Lust, carried to deny a temporary operator license for Brian Zurfluh as his application was filled out incorrectly with information not noted.

Public Works report: Director Langer reported that Utility Supt, **Leif Spilde has been nominated by WRWA for the District 2 operator of the year** award. The Public Works Committee approved Spilde attending the Annual Technical Conference in Green Bay March 28th where the award will be announced. Klahn moved, second Frandy, carried to have Mark Bruner **replace the lower level fire door and frame** not to exceed \$200. Trustee Bruner abstained.

The door has been stored in the garage for several years. Langer reported he would be **advertising for the seasonal laborer position** on the LED, website, and once in the Observer which was approved by the committee. Langer suggested a starting wage of \$7.50 per hr with an increase to \$8 per hr if warranted. Applications would be due by April 6th. Klahn moved, second Frandy, carried to have the PW committee review the applications with the top three referred to the Personnel committee to interview and make a

recommendation to the Board to hire.

At 7 pm, President Walsten called to order the **PUBLIC HEARING for SPECIAL ASSESSMENTS for Curb & Gutter Improvements on Teddy Street** at the following addresses: 107 Teddy St, 111 Teddy St, 119 Teddy St, 125 Teddy St. Resolution 2012-03 Preliminary Declaring Intent to Levy Special Assessments Under Municipal Police Power Pursuant to Section 66.97 WIS Stats. was presented. Traci Schaefer asked about the project and process on cost, interest, and number of years for repayment. Langer explained the project to improve the street from curb to curb replacing curb and gutter that is in poor condition, creating a street crown to improve drainage. The project should last 15-20 years. There are four C&G properties and the Village has one intersection to be replaced. Landscaping is a part of the project and about one foot behind the C&G will be reseeded. Actual cost and footage will be sent to each of the four property owners once the bids are accepted and actual footage is determined. The Board will approve a final resolution which will identify the interest rate and number of annual installments. Bruner moved, second Klahn, carried to close the public hearing at 7:10 p.m. Trustee Bruner moved, second Klahn, carried to approve Resolution 2012-03 Preliminary Declaring Intent to Levy Special Assessments Under Municipal Police Power Pursuant to Section 66.97 WIS Stats on Teddy Street (residences as previously listed).

Board returned to the agenda and continued Pubic Works Committee Report. Trustee Bruner moved, second Van Den Eng, carried to approve the committee's recommendation to **sell a grinder (Muffin Monster)** for \$300 to Crane Engineering. Bruner moved, second Klahn, carried to take **items 1-8 to Wisconsin Surplus Auction**. Item #9, **two pumps removed from the Kerch St lift station** will be advertised in the League of Municipalities per motion by Van Den Eng, second Klahn, carried. These pumps are no longer designed to work in any of the Village's lift stations.

Langer reported the CDBG grants right now are more like loans with some grant dollars. He will continue to seek out grants for road projects. The **Safe Routes to Schools application** comes out the end of this month. The Village has been denied two times before for construction costs. Past history shows planning grants are more likely to be funded for the SRTS program. Strand Engineering offers a price of \$1000-2000 to do a SRTS planning grant with Langer's help. Strand was paid \$1000 before for an infrastructure grant application. Trustee Van Den Eng moved, second Klahn, carried to hire Strand not to exceed \$1500 to apply for SRTS planning grant. PW committee approved repair to the **International truck**. The second to last snow storm transmission issues developed with an estimated \$2000 for repairs for a torque converter and pressure plate. Once the truck is replaced in the future, the truck would be kept as back up or set a reserve minimum and advertise to sell. If the Bobcat is sold, these funds could be used toward a patrol truck. The **radios and license for the narrow band radio system** have arrived. Plans for a **ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Legion Park scoreboard donated by Pellitteri Waste System** are being worked on. Langer reported **toxins (most likely toxic chemicals) are being dumped into the sewer system** causing major processing issues. A paragraph regarding dumping toxins in the system will be added to the cross connection letter that is being sent out to commercial users. Langer also reported that he and Spilde have visited a few commercial entities to explain the problems at the plant and answer any questions they may have.

New Business: Clerk Strause stated the **2008 sewer BAN interest payment due April 25th** along with the CWF#4 refinancing issue no longer needs to be discussed as a possible refinancing of the interest payment is no longer an option on the loan. Trustee Van Den Eng moved, second Klahn, carried to lay this issue on the table. **Resolution 2012-04 Designating 2011 funds to be carried over to 2012** was moved by Bruner, second Klahn with motion withdrawn. Questioned was the 2011 Planner surplus funds of \$4270 to be moved to 2012 while the 2011 Zoning Consultant expense from General Engineering for updating the Village's Comprehensive Plan as discussed at the December meeting had a bill submitted over the 2011 budgeted amount. Clerk Strause stated the minutes would be reviewed to clear this up. It was felt to be specified in the discussion to use certain funds from planning. Trustee Klahn moved to approve the Resolution excluding the \$4270 for the Planner account with the new total of \$6856 to be moved to the 2012 expense accounts. Motion was second by Van Den Eng, carried.

An **ordinance for chicken keeping** was discussed. Walsten stated there is a website, urbanchickens.org, to learn more about residential chicken keeping and the history of the whole movement to bring chickens to urban settings. The website has resources listed and a model ordinance to look at. Madison and Stoughton

have approved ordinances to allow for this. The subject is controversial and a public informational hearing could be held. Conditions would be controlled by the ordinance. Some Trustees are not in favor of having chickens next door but are willing to review a possible ordinance. Copies from other communities will be looked at. Frandy moved, second Hawkey, carried to approve referring this to the Ordinance Committee.

Unfinished Business: Clerk Strause gave an update on the **moving process to Union Bank & Trust** estimated to be April 12-13th. Van Den Eng moved, second Klahn, carried to tentatively set the move date for April 12-13th and to have the office closed during that time. One portable radio will be used in the Clerk's Office until it is decided what radio equipment needs to be moved or replaced. A request by the Clerk to American Family for office furniture is pending their approval. Local access channel equipment will not be moved and the possibility of live streaming to a community channel was discussed. A list of surplus items will be made and possibly this can be taken to Wis. Surplus Auction with the Public Works items. Location to hold Board meetings was discussed as some felt the Board Room at the Bank would be too crowded and the meetings should be kept at the Community Bldg. Clarification on employee parking will be addressed. The current Clerk's Office will be used for committee meetings and Police Dept meetings while the current supply room may be converted for use for the Judge's office.

Concealed Carry Ordinance has been reviewed by the Ordinance and Safety committees. Ordinance will review again and bring to the Board for approval at the April meeting. Walsten contacted the Belleville Village President who is interested in possibly having a **joint Municipal Court**. Their election in April will elect a new judge. Walsten stated they are asking for a proposal to bring to their Board meeting which is tentatively set for March 19th in Belleville. Judge Glasier has not returned Walsten's calls to discuss this. DOT attorneys will be meeting this Thurs to **review the joint agreement between the Village and Town of Rutland on the Hwy 14/92 drainage**. An **amendment added to the DaneCom agreement** was approved per motion by Bruner, second Van Den Eng, carried. The amendment was needed because of legal challenges by a few non-participating municipalities.

Committee Reports: **Safety**-The **new radar unit** will be installed tomorrow provided by a \$1300 DOT grant reimbursement. Safety and Personnel committees have been involved in the hiring process for part-time officer Patrick Reese. Trustee Van Den Eng moved, second Klahn, carried to approve the Safety Committee's recommendation to **hire Patrick Reese** contingent on medical, psychological testing and his availability. Chief Barger reported there are **repeater concerns and communication issues relative to Dane County towers** and would like to hold off on this discussion until after the DaneCom meeting this week, working out logistics and cost. Barger presented Policy 115, Records Retention to the Board. This policy is pending review by the State Historical Society and is based on records destruction. Safety will again review and bring back to Board for final approval. Barger reported on the monthly calls for service, upgrading a hiring process for the department that will soon go to the committee, completing staff evaluations, air card use, presentations to 4th graders in the school district, and upgrading the records management system.

Planning and Zoning-Chapter 47 Land Division as amended was presented. Rob Roth, General Engineering, assisted with the creation. Trustee Van Den Eng moved, second Frandy, carried to approve Chapter 47 as recommended by the Commission with corrections changing the Nov 2 date to March 12th.

Ordinance committee continues working on Chapter 2 and will now be working on an ordinance for chicken keeping. **Fire-EMS** dinner was last week and was well attended; however, there were no Village representatives there. No information was received on this dinner.

EDC-Lighting to be discussed again for the Community Bldg. Wayfarer signage is still being worked on with changes made due to the Clerk's Office moving. **Recreation**-There has not been a meeting. Frandy moved, second Van Den Eng, carried to postpone the fireworks contract to the next meeting.

Personnel- A Trustee Handbook was presented which will be a guide for new Trustees explaining the role, duties, and responsibilities but will also be a guide for current Trustees explaining the new code of conduct, code of ethics, Open Meetings Law and instructions on parliamentary procedure. Each year, the new Board will review this handbook so that all participants will operate with the same code of conduct. Walsten stated she is inserting in Appendix B Parliamentary Procedure and Open Meeting Law a definition for "Committee of the Whole. Frandy moved, second Van Den Eng, carried to approve the Trustee Handbook with corrections. Finance-No report. Ad Hoc-Recycling will have some new members for the committee. Website- No report. Bruner moved, second Klahn, carried to adjourn at 8:49pm.

President's Letter
March 15, 2012
Nadine S. Walsten

Not only was it 73 degrees this afternoon, the non-stop talking of the Sandhill cranes down at Allen Creek could be heard all over the Village from sun up to bedtime! If snow returns, we will all need grief counselors, for sure.

April 3rd is our next election and as you know, I believe strongly in having more candidates running than there are open seats for the Board. Without a slate of candidates, there will be no debate, no platforms issued, no positions taken on Village issues because there is no choice between candidates to be made on Election Day. It's important to understand, I'm not trying to discredit the individuals on the ballot—that's not my point. However, Brooklyn is facing some very serious challenges—our downtown is in trouble, need for commercial/business development, high sewer rates, and, quality of life issues, such as a resident said to me, "there is no 'here', here". These and other issues need to be aired so voters can use these discussions to make a selection for the Village Board. At this point, it would require a write-in candidate (it has been done many times before in mid-March!) to create the public forum needed. In Brooklyn I'm very impressed by our voter turnout, but having individuals come forward to participate in the crucial decisions which creates a community where people want to live or locate a business, that's a much more difficult problem. Brooklyn needs individuals who wish to bring solutions, an open mind and a willingness to "learn on the job" how democracy works on the local level. We all start out as "rookies." Our meeting compensation scale isn't great but it isn't terrible, either.

Back to the Community Survey. Questions 9 and 10 addressed types of new housing respondents wanted to see and the adequacy of sidewalks. Not surprisingly, most respondents ranked single family, mid-size homes as most desirable, followed by single family starter homes. Single family, attached homes (2 unit condos, duplexes, townhouses) and senior housing were tied for third. The number of >65 y.o. residents in Brooklyn is dropping. In 2000, the >65 y.o. residents made up more than 8 % of Brooklyn's population but this number dropped to 5.6% in 2010, largely due to the lack of affordable retirement housing stock in the Village. The question on sidewalks asked if the respondents felt the sidewalks were adequate to meet the safety needs of the community. Eighty-one percent (81%) agreed vs. 19% who disagreed. Of the 24 written comments submitted, 17 reflected concern for the lack of, or poor condition of, sidewalks in some neighborhoods.

Question #11 asked whether a bike/pedestrian trail network that connects recreational resources within the Village should be developed. Sixty-two percent (62%) somewhat agreed, agreed or strongly agreed but most written comments saw this as a lower priority. Five (5) of the 26 comments desired a bike trail to Oregon/Evansville over trails in the Village. Another "green" question was #12, which asked if the Village should groom the woodland area south of the Cemetery to promote enjoyment of this natural area. The average was 28% "somewhat agreed" with agree and strongly agree adding an additional 35%. This was a poorly worded question as it was clear from the comments there was confusion over where this woodland plot was actually located, its size, etc. (It's actually about 5 acres directly south of the east section of the cemetery, not the area called the "dump.") The area has trails which are currently being shredded by ATV use, has brushy undergrowth, some garlic mustard, but is a wonderfully quiet, peaceful place if you crave a respite in the woods. Those who supported it cautioned keeping costs to groom the area to a minimum.

Speaking of "green", if you are interested in discussing the formation of a Sustainability Committee—what its purpose would be, etc. and you are willing to attend a monthly meeting (\$25/meeting) to explore this question, let me know.

Last, on 3/12, a group of citizens asked the Board to address creating an ordinance to permit residential chicken keeping. I would be interested to hear your thoughts on the matter—455-1457 or president@brooklynwi.gov. (This week I'm having another attempt at my President Facebook page so better use my email!)

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)

March Law of the Month:

Abandoned iceboxes and refrigerators Ordinance

22.16 Abandoned iceboxes and refrigerators.

No one shall leave or permit to remain outside any dwelling, building or other structure, or within any unoccupied or abandoned building or structure, or in a place accessible to children, any abandoned, unattended or discarded icebox, refrigerator or other container which has an airtight door or lid, snap lock or other locking device which may not be released from the inside, without first removing said door or lid, snap lock or other locking device from said icebox, refrigerator or container. Any person, firm or corporation violating any provision of this ordinance shall forfeit not less than \$25.00 nor more than \$150.00. Each day a violation continues shall be deemed a separate offense

Failure to adhere to the above Ordinance could result in a citation.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Activity for February

Theft	1
Traffic Incidents	28
Traffic Citations	9
Traffic Warnings	9
Misc Comp/Arrests	4
Assists	12
Damage property	3
Traffic crashes	1
Open Records	4
Drug charges/comp	3
OWI arrests	1
Parking citations	4
Disturbance/disorderly	2
Total	81

BROOKLYN SNO HORNETS DANCE AND RAFFLE

**Saturday, March 24, 2012 –
8:30pm-12:30am Music by: DJ
“Red Hot Ken Scott”**



WE ARE MOVING!!

The Village Clerk’s office will be closed for business on April 12-13 while we move. Our new location will be 210 Commercial St (downtown) inside the UB&T Bank.

We apologize for the inconvenience!

VILLAGE-WIDE

GARAGE SALES

April 28th & 29th

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



NEW FOR DEPOT DAYS!

1ST Annual Vintage Car Show

Saturday, April 28: 1-4pm

Downtown around the track area. Contact Rich Walford for more info at 455-1713. Check in at 100 E. Main St by 12:30pm. Dash plaques for the 1st 20 entries. Each car receives a door prize entry.

SPRING ELECTION

Tuesday, April 3rd

Polls will be open from

7am– 8pm

**PLEASE COME OUT
AND VOTE!!!**

Senior Potluck Lunch

Thursday, March 22nd

Noon – Community Bldg.

Bring a dish to pass and come and enjoy some good company!

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

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Consumer affairs: 266-2001 / 800-225-7729

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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.

“New Feature: Monthly Senior Center Updates”

As President, I would like to introduce Rachel Brickner, the Outreach Worker for Brooklyn from the Oregon Area Senior Center. She will be contributing a monthly column on Senior services. The Village contributes \$14,000 per year to the OASC to provide a comprehensive range of services at little or no cost to Village Seniors, including home visits by Rachel and other Senior Center staff. I have had personal experience with the Center caring for my 96 year old father, and unless you have a need to know, you cannot appreciate what a vital resource this is for our community. It not only provides Senior services, it is a site for computer day classes to teach computer literacy to area adults. Welcome, Rachel!

Nadine Walsten

News from Your Senior Center By Rachel Brickner

The Oregon Area Senior Center provides services to everyone in the Village of Brooklyn, regardless of which county you live in. (If you require several services and live in Green County, we will help you contact the Green County Benefit Specialist.) The mission of the Center is: “to provide support, services and opportunities for older adults to remain as independent as possible, in their own homes and in their own communities.”

In order to carry out our mission, the Center offers a wide variety of services that range from health + wellness to social activities to educational + recreational opportunities. The best way to find out what your Senior Center offers is to read The Rome Corners Reporter, our newsletter, which can be picked up at the Community Building in Brooklyn (as well as several other places), or can be viewed on-line at www.oregonareaseniorcenterwisconsin.com. It can also be e-mailed to you, or, if you prefer, mailed (for the cost of postage) if you call 835-5801 and request it. Another way to learn about what is going on at the Center is to call me, Rachel Brickner, at 835-5801. I am the outreach worker for Brooklyn, and I would love to hear from you!

Among the opportunities at the Center in the month of March is a free medication check up, during which a pharmacist will look at all of the medications you take, including prescription, over-the-counter, and supplements. You then receive feedback about your unique combination of medications. This is particularly helpful if you take several medications, or have experienced any adverse health episodes or falls. Interested? Call me at 835-5801 for more details or to reserve a spot.

Also in March, we will be hosting Attorney Beth Cox in a free educational program relating to wills, trusts, probate and estate planning. This is scheduled for March 29, at 6:00 p.m. Because a light supper is provided, we ask that you RSVP by March 27 at 835-5801.