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Town of Brooklyn 2009 Newsletter

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Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday Noon to 3:00 p.m.

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State of the Town:

As the year 2008 comes to a close, we will be facing tougher challenges for 2009. I can report that the City of Green Lake and Town of Brooklyn are hopefully in the last stages with our Boundary Agreement. With the passage of this Agreement, it will bring us a step closer to uniting our growth and productivity efforts.

The Town has finalized its amendments to our Comprehensive Plan and will be holding a Public Hearing on the matter soon. Also, at the urging of the electors at recent town annual meetings, the Town Board will increase from 3 to 5 members as of April 2009.

Over recent years the budget for road expenses has not increased, and with the severe winter last year and the spring flooding in early 2008 the bulk of several years' road budget has been spent on plowing, salt/sanding and spot repairs. Recognizing the need for serious infrastructure maintenance and restoration, a 20-Year Road Rehabilitation Plan encompassing all the roads under jurisdiction of the town was prepared. A "Power-Point" presentation was given at the Town Annual Budget Hearing in November, and with that information the electors present voted unanimously to support the increase in the road budget needed to provide the money to continue required regular road maintenance. It will also afford the increase, which will be needed to carry out the reconstruction and rehabilitation on all the roads in the town over a 20-year cycle. This did increase our road budget and town levy substantially but that will permit us to improve our infrastructure on a continuing basis.

Thank you all for allowing me to serve as your Town Chairperson with pride and respect.

Mike Wuest, Town Chair

Tax and Assessment Notes:

Please be aware, that although the road budget increase raised the town levy and the town mill rate, when it was combined with the mill rates of the state, county, school, tech. school and (for some properties) the sanitary district the overall mill rates for the town tax districts actually decreased, though not in the same proportion as the overall value increased.

As we are all aware, an outside re-assessment of the town was required due to a petition of 14 property owners in 2006. This resulted in an increase in the total town value from \$434.4 million to \$532 million. This is an effect of three factors working together. (1) An increase in the value of the town as determined by the Dept. of Revenue Assessment Office, (2) An increase in our level of assessment from about 90% of the state's former (2007) full value to now about 95% of the state's new (2008) increased value, and (3) An increase in actual values of many classes of property as determined by analysis of sales by Grota Appraisals.

We have been made aware that the classifications of some properties were changed. If you feel there is a problem with your assessment, as always, I am willing to discuss it with you and review your property listing. This can be done at any time. It is not necessary to wait until Open Book to alert me of a potential problem. If done before the roll is complete, any necessary change can be more efficiently processed and the Open Book/ Board of Review process made less pressured. Thank you for your consideration and patience.

Elizabeth A. Rowley, Town Assessor

Please remember we have a website: www.townofbrooklyn.com If you have not done so, please go on line and check it out. All agendas are posted, there is a calendar of events, and boards and commission names are posted. Some forms are available to be printed off, such as dog licenses, etc. Please check it if you have questions. E-mail addresses: the town's e-mail address is: townofbrooklyn@centurytel.net. If you have questions, you can always e-mail us and we will try to answer in a timely fashion. If you would like to be added to the town e-mail list for notices, please let us know. If your address changes, please let us know that also.

Annual Meeting: Will be held at the Town Hall on **April 21, 2009** at 7:00 p.m.

Building Inspector: Jerry Buhrows, Jr. has a new website. www.jandb.info. You can get information and forms directly from the web.

Budget Meeting: Is scheduled in November, time to be announced. This is when the Town Levy, highway expenditures, and Town Board Salaries are approved. Due to the fact that we have increased the Town Board to 4 supervisors, 2 will be elected each year. Salaries for the 2 to be elected in 2010 will be set at the budget meeting. After the budget meeting held in November (2010 or any year), the budget will be approved at the next regular Town Board meeting.

Dog & Kennel Licenses: Any dog over the age of five months must wear a license and have a valid rabies vaccination. Enclosed is a form with full instructions to obtain a license for your dog(s). This fee is collected by the Town Treasurer and should be paid by check. Please enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope for the dog license and tags. All fees are due 3/31/09. Late fees will remain at \$5.00 per dog. You may also pay for your dog license at the Town Hall during regular office hours. For Kennel fees, contact Kathleen Morris.

Elections: Are held at the Town Hall. Hours are from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Please remember that if you did not fill out a state registration form, you will have to complete one before you can vote. You may register at the Town Office during regular office hours, or print the form off the website and send it in. You may also register at the County Clerk's office in the Courthouse during their regular office hours.

Fire Wardens

The Town of Brooklyn has 2 emergency fire wardens. They are: Sharon Timm, Classic Auto Service (W1287 N. Lawson Dr., GL); and Marcel Mildebrandt, (N5697 Skunk Hollow Road, Ripon). Starting January 1st until May 31st, if there is not significant snow on the ground you need a burning permit for brush, leave burning and barrels. **Remember: After you have obtained your written annual burning permit, you must check the Internet or call the hotline for daily burning restrictions after 11:00 a.m. on the day you wish to burn.** www.dnr.wi.gov/forestry/fire or call 1-888-947-2876. You only need one (1) permit per year.

Open Book/Board of Review: By Statute the Board of Review is opened during the 30-day period beginning the second Monday in May

Postings/publications. Prior to each meeting an agenda is posted at the Town Hall; Classic Auto Service; 1st National Bank-Green Lake Branch; and the Town Recycling /Sanitation Center. Legal Notices are also published in the Green Lake Reporter. We also submit the agendas to the Green Lake Reporter, on the town website: www.townofbrooklyn.com, and Channel 19.

Town Meetings: All Town Board Meetings are open to the public and are held at 7:00 p.m. the second Tuesday of the month, unless otherwise posted.

Town Plan Commission: Meets the first Thursday of the month when items need attention, or as needed.