

**VILLAGE OF SOUTH BLOOMING  
GROVE  
PUBLIC HEARING – 2023 BUDGET  
MONDAY  
NOVEMBER 14, 2022  
8:01PM**

➤ **Call to order**

Mayor Kalaj called to order the Village Board Meeting at 8:06 pm on November 14, 2022, for the Village of South Blooming Grove located at 811 State Route 208, within the Village of South Blooming Grove, and having a mailing address of Monroe, New York.

➤ **Roll call**

The following persons were present:

- George Kalaj – Mayor
- Abraham Weiss – Deputy Mayor
- Yitzchok Feldman- Trustee
- Zalmon Rosner – Trustee
- Isaac Ekstein- Legislative Aide to Mayor
- Al Fusco, Village Engineer
- Scott Ugell Esq.- Village Attorney
- Kerry Dougherty – Village Clerk
- Timothy Doyle – Village Accountant
- Absent – Asher Guttman

➤ **Presentation**

- The Village Board previously met for a Budget Workshop and Mr. Doyle presented the proposed 2023 proposed budget.

➤ **Public Comment**

- **Sue Anne Vogelsberg** – had a list of multiple questions regarding individual lines on the proposed budget. She was asked to email them so that the village could reply to each and every question.
- **Bonnie Rum** – asked what the difference was between a Mayor’s Budget and a Tentative Budget. **Mr. Doyle** advised that the way a budget process works obviously for comparison sake, you want last year’s budget listed and then the next step is the Mayor’s Budget almost a 1<sup>st</sup> draft which is presented at the workshop and then after discussions from that meeting there are things that change, then the tentative budget is what is presented at the Public Hearing. It is a process of the Budget. Line A1010, the personnel services went up 24%, she imagines that is for all together or is each person getting that? That is a raise of 24+%, that is amazing, nobody gets raises like that. Line A1210, personnel services again have gone up, the treasurer that you had \$56,226 and there is \$5,000 this year. Does that mean there is no more treasurer, not required anymore? You have litigation special counsel; how do you make that decision. Is Mr. Fusco paying his people out of the budget? The shuttle bus to

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where? In zoning 8010, there is no engineer. In planning 8020 part time employee community and social services, \$27,000 when there was not, who is this person? Real property taxes seem to be stagnant, and she doesn't know who that is possible as there are a number of houses of worship, it would seem to her that those taxes would be coming down as opposed to staying stagnant. Appropriated reserves is that going out or into the budget. **Mr. Ekstein** advised that the reason why we do a budget is to have appropriate funds for what we may use it for. When we budget for an item, it does not mean that will be exactly what we use, but you have to budget for it. There is no shuttle at this time, but the village may add services to provide a shuttle, as in any other municipality in Orange County. Responsible budgeting looks to the upcoming year and how can, we make the village better. House of Worship continues to come up regarding bringing down the tax revenue, but there are other projects that come up and a growing village it increased the tax revenue and makes it affordable. We will probably be the only municipality in NYS that is not going to increase their taxes again this year, hopefully. Mr. Ekstein and attorney Ugell continued to provide discussion and response regarding the budget and the purpose of a budget.

- **Julie Southwick** inquired about traffic signal budget line. **Mr. Ekstein** advised that the traffic signal at Mountain Road and Route 208 is not going to cost us the entire amount of the budget line but being responsible we bonded \$500,000 but we are not required to spend it all. It is not going to cost the village more than \$250,000 but we allocated enough funding. These monies may be balanced/offset by developers.
- **Simon Gelb** advised that approximately, 5 or 6 years ago there was an incident in the village, there was a shooting in Stonegate, at the public comment part of a meeting, he tried to explain to the board that it was about time to put in a surveillance system in the village. He would like to advise the sitting board while they are preparing the budget to consider same.

➤ **Adjournment**

- Motion to enter into executive session at 8:43 pm to discuss budget salary for personnel by Mayor Kalaj, seconded by Trustee Rosner. *4 Ayes, Mayor Kalaj, Deputy Mayor Weiss, Trustee Rosner, and Trustee Feldman. 1 Absent Trustee Guttman*
- Motion to exit executive session at 8:45 pm by Trustee Rosner, seconded by Trustee Feldman. *4 Ayes, Mayor Kalaj, Deputy Mayor Weiss, Trustee Rosner, and Trustee Feldman. 1 Absent Trustee Guttman*
- Motion to close the budget public hearing at 8:47pm. by Trustee Rosner, seconded by Mayor Kalaj. *4 Ayes, Mayor Kalaj, Deputy Mayor Weiss, Trustee Rosner, and Trustee Feldman. 1 Absent Trustee Guttman.*

Minutes respectfully submitted by  
Kerry Dougherty, Village Clerk