

**VILLAGE OF SOUTH BLOOMING
GROVE
REGULAR MEETING AND BUDGET PUBLIC HEARINGS
MONDAY
NOVEMBER 4, 2024
8:00PM**

➤ **Call to order**

Mayor Kalaj made a motion to open the public hearing, Trustee Guttman seconded, 4 Ayes at 8:03pm on November 4, 2024, 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
- Asher Guttman – Trustee
- Scott Ugell Esq. – Village Attorney
- Kerry Dougherty – Village Clerk
- Isaac Ekstein – Legislative Aide to Mayor
- Joel Stern – Confidential Assistant to the Mayor
- Yitzchok Feldman- Trustee
- **Absent** – Al Fusco – Village Engineer

PUBLIC HEARING – OVERRIDE THE TAX LEVY

➤ **Attorney Ugell** explained that this is a local law in the event the Village had to go over the Tax Levy Limit.

➤ **Public Comment**

- **Anonymous** – He feels this is the cart before the horse, shouldn't we talk about the budget before we talk about overriding the tax levy limit.
- **Bonnie Rum** – commented not about the Tax Levy. She rectified that a screen shot made the appearance of attorney sleeping, he was not. It is not a United Jewish Community if you call others half jews.

➤ **Adjournment**

- Motion to close the public hearing at 8:12 pm by Mayor Kalaj, seconded by Trustee Guttman. *4 Ayes, Mayor Kalaj, Deputy Mayor Weiss, Trustee Guttman and Trustee Rosner. 1 Absent - Trustee Feldman.*

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PUBLIC HEARING – 2025 PROPOSED BUDGET

➤ **Call to order**

Trustee Rosner made a motion to open the public hearing, Mayor Kalaj seconded, 4 Ayes at 8:13pm on November 4, 2024, 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.

➤ **Public Comment**

- **Bonnie Rum** – Inquired about traffic signs, what was that about, well #7 was mentioned and Engineer advised it could be running in 30 days. Another well has to go through the board of health. When you reduce the budget for trucked in water it seems irresponsible. There is conflict of information between the County, the Department of Health and the Village. Where is the money coming from? Will employees contribute to that because there is a fiduciary responsibility.
- **Publius** – Provided comments in writing and read them out loud (see attached).
- **Jodie** – She doesn't believe three minutes is enough time to comment, she is going to go line by line and ask questions. The board advised that she could submit comments in writing. Independent Accounting, she is wondering why? Who pays Kraushaar salary? She doesn't see DPW in the budget at all, \$750,000 budget that was approved. Bus operations jumps out in a big way, she did her own calculations and the projected year \$240,00 and the budget next year states \$247,500 for a grand total over 3 years of one million 1,640,157. However, the revenue only adds up to \$116,000. This doesn't include salary, three minutes is not enough. These buses are not serving all of the community causing a deficit.

➤ **Adjournment**

- Motion to close the public hearing at 8:22 pm by Mayor Kalaj, seconded by Trustee Guttman. 5 Ayes, Mayor Kalaj, Deputy Mayor Weiss, Trustee Guttman, Trustee Rosner and Trustee Feldman.

REGULAR MEETING

Call to order

- Mayor Kalaj called the regular meeting to order at 8:22, 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.

➤ **Mayor's Comments**

- The Mayor congratulated Clovewood on obtaining water permits and is hoping to see positive results for the village.

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- The Mayor stated that unfortunately we have had many disruptions and he has been warning about disruptions during government business and every meeting has been hectic, therefore we will suspend public comments at the regular board meeting until further notice.

➤ **Business**

- **Resolution No. (62)** – Resolution of the Village Board of the Village of South Blooming Grove adopting Local Law 4 of 2024 to override the Tax Levy Limit established in General Municipal Law §3-c. Motion to accept by Trustee Guttman, seconded by Trustee Rosner. *5 Ayes, Mayor Kalaj, Deputy Mayor Weiss, Trustee Guttman, Trustee Rosner and Trustee Feldman.*
- **Resolution No. (63)** – Resolution of the Village Board of the Village of South Blooming Grove approving street names for 202-1-11 and 202-1-12. Motion to accept by Trustee Feldman, seconded by Deputy Mayor Weiss. *5 Ayes, Mayor Kalaj, Deputy Mayor Weiss, Trustee Guttman, Trustee Rosner and Trustee Feldman.*

➤ **Abstract**

- Motion to accept the Abstract by Mayor Kalaj, seconded by Trustee Guttman, *5 Ayes, Mayor Kalaj, Deputy Mayor Weiss, Trustee Guttman, Trustee Rosner and Trustee Feldman.*

➤ **Comment**

- **Trustee Guttman** reminded all about no parking in the streets from November 1 to April 15, snow will be coming. **Joel Stern** reminded all to wear reflectors when walking in the road. Everyone should go out and vote.

➤ **Adjournment**

- Motion to close the meeting at 8:28 pm by Mayor Kalaj, seconded by Trustee Guttman. *5 Ayes, Mayor Kalaj, Deputy Mayor Weiss, Trustee Guttman, Trustee Rosner and Trustee Feldman.*

Minutes respectfully submitted by
Kerry Dougherty, Village Clerk

November 4th, 2024

Dear Village of South Blooming Grove Board of Trustees,

Subject: Public Hearing 2025 Tentative Budget

The heart of New York Home Rule is for the people to govern without the legislature impeding on its elected government and its affairs. The dark side of New York Home Rule is that it can easily be manipulated to create tyranny or as we have here in South Blooming Grove, a Theocracy imposing itself on a Democratic Republic to extinguish the fundamental rights of the public given by the US Constitution.

The village has slowly implemented a policy that chills the public's political speech and its right to consume another speaker's political speech in the marketplace of ideas. Today's 2025 Budget Hearing is a prime example.

On September 19th, 2024, the Village Planning Board implemented a new hearing rule requiring the public to sign-in with name and address as a condition of speech. Then on September 24th, 2024, during the Village Regular Board Meeting, Joel Stern called for the complete removal of the public comment period due to me not providing my name and address, which is my first amendment right, *McIntyre v Ohio Election Commission*, SCOTUS 1995, *Citizens United v FEC*, SCOTUS 2010.

This proposed tentative budget is not ready for public hearing, the Village employee salaries are not even provided. The tentative budget provided is not the tentative budget provided to the board at its October 28th Budget Workshop nor to me via an October 29th FOIL Request that was answered on October 30th.

It was my belief that half of page 9 of the tentative budget answered in my FOIL request was missing, which the new tentative budget justifies that belief.

There are so many questions to be answered concerning this proposed budget that the three-minute rule, which is generally reasonable for meetings and hearings, is not in this case. The lack of information and the numerous items for debate alone substantiate the need for a public workshop open for the public to speak on this partially finished tentative budget.

The budget Calendar for the Village has a deadline of December 20, 2024, for the budget officer to prepare the tentative budget, furnish a copy to each member of the board, reproduce copies for public distribution and then file with the Village Clerk (Village Law 5-504).

The Village then has until December 31, 2024, for the village clerk to present the tentative budget to the board and the board reviews and modifies as it sees fit. (Village Law 5-508(1)).

At least five days shall elapse between the first publication and date specified for the hearing, which is to be held not later than January 20, 2025 (Village Law 5-508(3))

The public was just today provided with this new tentative budget and a public hearing cannot be held at this time. Allowing the public just a mere few hours to digest an entire year's budget is unreasonable.

Sincerely,
Publius