

**VILLAGE OF SOUTH BLOOMING  
GROVE  
PUBLIC HEARING  
Monday  
November 8, 2021  
8:01 P.M.**

➤ **Call to order**

- Mayor Kalaj called to order the Public Hearing regarding the 2022 Budget at 8:03 p.m. on November 8, 2021, via Zoom Webinar No. 881 0598 2122 for the Village of South Blooming Grove located at 819 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
- Asher Guttman – Trustee
- Zalmon Rosner – Trustee
- Scott B. Ugell, Esq. – Village Attorney
- Kerry Dougherty – Village Clerk
- Joel Stern - Confidential Assistant to Mayor
- Isaac Ekstein – Legislative Aide to Mayor
- Al Fusco- Village Engineer
- Marvin Nyman- Village Accountant
- Holly Brown- Treasurer

➤ **Village Budget Discussion**

- Marvin Nyman presented the tentative 2022 Village Budget.

➤ **Public Comment**

- **Sue Anne Vogelsberg** – We didn't actually get the SAM Grant money yet so we are not going out an buying street lights she hopes until we get that money. We are budgeting \$14,000 for celebrations but if we don't use it the money just stays and doesn't get appropriated to other things. The benefits, she understood that the two new volunteer positions that became employee positions that \$30,000 she understood that they were not going to be getting benefits so who is getting, why is there is such an increase with the benefits? An appropriate reserve, she has no idea what that is, she is just concerned. If we have a grant writer that is getting \$4,000, in the past we have not seen this person we have only heard Engineer Fusco has been doing grant writing. She is wondering if he is the only one that is writing grants what is she is doing? Because there is a resolution to approve this budget she feels that no one is going to take heed on it because we are going to be voting on it shortly. **Marvin Nyam** responded that it is no required of the board to vote and approve the budget tonight, they are able to do a continuance of the public hearing through November 30, 2021. They may approve it tonight, they might not. The board might have

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additional information they are waiting and may take that into consideration and do a continuance. Regarding Celebration, there is an income line and an expense line to offset one another. As has happened for many years within the village, the celebration expense is 100% offset by donations from residents and businesses. Usually the Net Effect of that is zero. You are correct if it is not spent nothing will be charged to that line. Appropriate reserve, if you have looked at a financial statement of a business, they carry forward every year what they call retained earnings so therefore as an example if in a year if they have a \$100 of sales and \$90 of expenses, they have \$10 of profit and they carry that \$10 over in reserve if they need it for next year. This is exactly what happens within the village so if in a year they collect revenues, real estate taxes, all income \$500,000 and they only spend \$450,000, they put \$50,000 into surplus that they may or may not use in the next year or in subsequent years. It is to the Village's benefit to build up a reserve because it is very important when it comes to credit ratings relative to go out for bondings and also every year the state does a measure of the village's financial wherewithal, so these reserves are important, but every year to balance the budget going forward to basically give back the money that is in reserve so taxes don't go up more than they have to they appropriate surplus.

- **Kristie Johnson** – She was looking at the vehicle that was budgeted for \$40,000 and she understands there are three payments towards this vehicle, not including interest these payments from \$14,060 and that takes us out of the budget and she didn't see where that additionally money would come from. Are you going to purchase the street lights before the grant comes in? It was mentioned about a plan to undertake a six million dollar project but there wasn't a lot of information is that the same as the lighting or is that another big project and is that something the village is waiting for a grant? She has a lot of concern with counting on reserves and surplus knowing that assessed values are not going to go up meaning revenue is not going to go up, eventually the pot is going to empty. **Trustee Feldman and Trustee Rosner** advised that the street lights will come once they have the money and Trustee Feldman felt the pot is not going to get empty and they have a lot of projects before the planning board that they will increase revenues for the village.
- **Samantha Giovagnoli** – A question was asked regarding benefits but she did not hear a response. She is very curious and as a tax payer and a resident and as all of us are tax payers and residents we are asking this question, could you please respond to who the benefits are going to. Maybe before you end you could summarize if taxes are going up this year or if you are going to use from the surpluses to try to balance for this year but then try to build back up the surplus. It sounds like taxes are going up. Be reminded that there are elderly in the community who are elderly and they do not work as much as other people. She remembers that the Mayor said that taxes are not going up and that this would be fiscally responsible, so please keep that in mind. She believes Trustee Feldman just spoke about a six million dollar project, if you could just give us a few more details about what the project is going to be and you said that there would be a lot of revenues coming in and its great to hear all these things but I am interested in what these revenues are and if you could

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give us one or two examples she'd appreciate it. **Engineer Fusco** advised that we are in the process of preparing a State Grant, its called a WIIA Grant and along with it is a NYS Environmental Facility Corporation Revolving Fund for drinking water that is a Loan Fund. The project is s six-million dollar project, the maximum grant amount is three million dollars which we anticipate going for and hopefully receiving which would leave a three million dollar balance for a loan. We are going to try to get a zero interest or other low interest loan for that. The work that would be done with this would be rehabilitation of the water system, it would include some new wells, new treatment, new storage and new distribution lines. All of this getting done will provide additional water supplies for village residents as well as for future use for industrial, commercial, whatever the case may be. However, one of the other big advantageous is hopefully we will totally eliminate the need for trucked water which as you heard was \$50,000 a year and could go up and could go down. This project if receiving the grant and loan would be tremendous benefit to the health, safety and welfare of the residents. **Accountant Marvin** advised that the cost of the vehicle was in excess of what had been budgeted, however a budget is a budget it is an estimate of what something is going to cost and also on the revenue side, it is an estimate of what is going to come in. Every year there are line items which are over budget as an expenditure point of view also some hopefully that will be under budget and the same thing with revenues. Last year we had surprises with revenue lines such as sales tax, recoding tax and water usage was up. It is true that some things went over budget, we had some new employees that hadn't been budget so there is a lot of back and forth. Also included within the general fund budget is something called contingency and that amount for 2021 and 2022 is the same and that is the village's "what if" line in the event of an unplanned expenditure, something cost more the cost of fuel went up, the cost of repairs. Hopefully that amount on the contingency line will "plug a hole" that might be in our operating budget. The village of south blooming grove has three groups of tax payers, it is very unusual, all residents pay the general fund taxes, however not all residents are in the water fund and not all residents are in the sewer fund. It will depend upon weather you are in those two districts if you will be affected by the increases and/or decreases in those two funds. It is a fact however that in the general fund which is the largest source of tax revenues for the village that there is not rate increase. The tax rate has not gone up however, if your home value or taxable assessed value which is set by the town changes either up or down your taxes can go up or down. The tax rate will not go up. In the water district the real estate taxes are going up to pay off additional debt which taxes are normally used for, however in the sewer district they are going down. If you are in both of those districts which many of the residents are you will have an increase possibly in taxes in the water district and a reduction in the sewer district again no increase in the tax rate in the general fund which effects all residents in the village. **Issac Ekstein** believes Trustee Feldman was misunderstood he mentioned many projects before the planning and zoning board which will ultimately increase the tax rateables. He was not talking about the grants. **Trustee Guttman** advised that the employee benefits he believes is the Mayor got added to the health insurance policy and the regular increase that

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drove up the spending.

- **Ryne Kitzrow** – He is curious what the total reserve balance currently is for the Village heading into 2022. **Accountant Nyman** advised that he did not in front of him at that time and again it is four different reserve balances for the four different funds. He would have to look that up.
- **Jimmy LoFranco** – he sees throughout the budget that there are raises in many lines, the one area he does not see any raises is in the office staff and he believes that can't be. The girls in that office work their butts off and he doesn't see any increase and it is ludicrous with everything that is going on that there is going to be no increase in the salaries for the staff of the village.

➤ **Adjournment**

- Motion to close the public hearing leaving it open for written comment for ten (10) days at 8:50 p.m. by Mayor Kalaj, seconded by Trustee Rosner. *5 Ayes, Mayor Kalaj, Deputy Mayor Weiss, Trustee Feldman, Trustee Guttman, and Trustee Rosner.*

Minutes respectfully submitted by  
Kerry Dougherty, Village Clerk