

**VILLAGE OF SOUTH BLOOMING  
GROVE  
BUDGET PUBLIC HEARING  
Tuesday  
November 9, 2020  
7:01 P.M.**

➤ **Call to order**

- Mayor Kalaj called to order the Village Budget Public Hearing at 7:01 p.m. on November 9, 2020, at the South Blooming Grove Fire House 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
- John L. Ross – Trustee
- Johnny Belfort - Trustee
- Yitzchok Feldman – Trustee
- Scott B. Ugell, Esq. – Village Attorney
- Marvin Nyman – Village Accountant
- Holly Brown – Village Treasurer
- Kerry Dougherty – Village Clerk

➤ **Comments**

- Copies of the budget were available, and Marvin Nyman presented a detailed review of the General, Water, Sewer and Capital Budgets. Including but not limited to:
  - Tax Rate for 2021 general fund projected to go down by 4.2%
  - Tax Assessment for property value has increased by 1.9 million dollars, increased 4.2%
  - The Orange County Sewer Authority increased by \$86,000.
  - Salary Increase for Staff – 4%
  - Salary Increase for Mayor – 5%
  - \$40,000 budgeted for new vehicle for the Mayor.
  - Revenue Sales Tax is difficult to determine due to COVID.
  - Sewer charges increased by \$86,000 which will require approximately 4.6% increase.
- James LoFranco – Hawthorne Drive - In an October 28, 2020 email you commented that we are now a poor village and you were scratching your head trying to figure out how to squeeze out some money from the budget to drill more wells and invest money in our infrastructure. How is spending \$40,000 to acquire a new vehicle being fiscally responsible? LoFranco states he drove that vehicle for two and half years so that it wouldn't be an additional burden on the taxpayers.
- Sue Anne Vogelsberg – 242 Prospect Road: Why has safety inspection line decreased by \$30,000? Why is Celebrations line increasing?
- Sonia Ayala – Merriewold Lane North – Asked about attorney line- what is covered by his monthly stipend? What will the monthly costs be for the IMAs with the Town of Blooming Grove? Asked if the board considered adopting a resolution regarding the tax levy limit. How much of an increase

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per household for Sewer and why did the repair and supply line not increase? Are we considering passing a resolution to override the tax cap?

- Donna Douglas- asked if Mr. Ugell would be Planning and Zoning attorney and if Village is expecting a tax increase.
- Christine Pappas- Tanager Road- Asked for Marvin Nyman's credentials.
- Pete Castellano- asked where \$116,000 capital funds come from. [CHIPS]

➤ **Public Comments**

- None

➤ **Adjournment**

- Motion to close the budget public hearing at 7:59 p.m. by Mayor Kalaj, seconded by Trustee Feldman. *4 Ayes, Mayor Kalaj, Deputy Mayor Weiss, Trustee Belfort, Trustee Feldman, and Trustee Ross.*

Minutes respectfully submitted by  
Kerry Dougherty, Village Clerk