

VILLAGE OF SOUTH BLOOMING GROVE
VILLAGE BOARD PUBLIC HEARING
FORMATION OF DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
PROPOSED LOCAL LAW 6 OF 2022
MONDAY
AUGUST 22, 2022
8:02 PM

Call to order

Mayor Kalaj called to order the Village Board Public Hearing, regarding creating a Village Department of Transportation, at 8:12 pm on August 22, 2022, via Zoom Webinar ID: 81653699709 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:

- Mayor's George Kalaj – Mayor
- Abraham Weiss- Deputy Mayor
- Yitzchok Feldman– Trustee
- Asher Guttman- Trustee
- Zalmon Rosner – Trustee
- Joel Stern – Confidential Assistant to the Mayor
- Isaac Ekstein – Legislative Aide to Mayor
- Al Fusco- Village Engineer
- Scott Ugell Esq.- Village Attorney
- Kerry Dougherty – Village Clerk

➤ **Presentation**

- **Mayor Kalaj** opened the public hearing regarding the creation of a Village Department of Transportation. He asked engineer Fusco to introduce the matter. **Engineer Fusco** stated that the Village Board wisely has determined that they felt it would be appropriate to form a Department of Transportation Commission. Based on all the ideas that have been floating and the vision of the Village of South Blooming Grove Village Board towards widening Route 208, putting up a temporary traffic light and things of that nature, it is obvious that the Village Board could use the help of a commission. Towards that end, this is a Local Law of 2022 for the formation of a Department of Transportation Commission. Mr. Fusco read the proposed local law 6 of 2022.

➤ **Public Comment**

- **Bonnie Rum** – inquired about the terms of the members of the commission, she was confused. **Al Fusco** advised that there will be 5 commissions appointed for 1,2,3,4 and 5 years. As one term expires, in a year, you could then be appointed again for 5 years and so on and so forth. **Joel Stern** explained further that it is going to be staggered appointments. **Ms. Rum** added that staggered appointments are a good idea, but she did not find the explanation any clearer. It would be nice if Scott Ugell could explain it but she doesn't know if...Mr. Ugell can you explain the terms? **Mr. Ugell** advised that it was just explained. **Ms. Rum** advised that it is not clear. **Al Fusco** clarified stating that one person is appointed for one year, one person for two years, one for three years and one for four years and one for five years. After one year a term has expired and he/she could be

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reappointed for five years and that way everybody would continue by one year. **Ms. Rum** I got it, thank you very much.

- **Sue Anne Vogelsberg** – inquired with both of the commissions are these people going to be paid employees of the Village because you didn't have that budgeted. **Joel Stern** advised no. **Sue Anne** asked they are volunteers? **Joel Stern** advised volunteers. **Sue Anne** they are volunteers, so then how is that if they are just volunteering what if they make a wrong decision are they going to be held accountable, just as trustees can be sued, if they are volunteers are they going to be held, how is that going to work. **Attorney Ugell** when you serve on a board, our village code indemnifies people personally, if they are appointed they will be indemnified. **Sue Anne** stated so they are volunteering, there is no salary involved and no expense to the village then for these ten people. Thank you.

➤ **Adjournment**

- Motion to close the public hearing at 8:23pm. by Trustee Feldman, seconded by Deputy Mayor Weiss. 5 Ayes, *Mayor Kalaj, Deputy Mayor Weiss, Trustee Feldman, Trustee Guttman and Trustee Rosner.*

Minutes respectfully submitted by
Kerry Dougherty, Village Clerk