

**VILLAGE OF SOUTH BLOOMING  
GROVE  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES  
PUBLIC HEARING  
CHAPTER 235, CHAPTER 85 & CHAPTER 222  
AND REGULAR MEETING  
MONDAY  
MAY 5, 2025  
8:00PM**

➤ **Call to order**

Mayor Kalaj called to order the Village Board Public Hearings at 8:04 pm on May 5, 2025, 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\*
- Asher Guttman - Trustee
- Zalmon Rosner – Trustee
- Isaac Ekstein – Legislative Aide to Mayor
- Joel Stern – Confidential Assistant to the Mayor
- Al Fusco Village Engineer
- Kerry Dougherty – Village Clerk
- **Absent** – Yitzchok Feldman – Trustee
- **Absent** – Scott Ugell Esq. – Village Attorney

**PUBLIC HEARINGS**

- **Engineer Fusco** presented Rural Residential District amending Chapter 235 regarding open space, amending Chapter 222 to accommodate street sweeping and amending Chapter 85 to control private well water. A motion was made by Trustee Guttman, seconded by Trustee Rosner – 3 Ayes.

➤ **Public Comment**

- **Bonnie Rum** – In 235-14.1 C1 its mentioned major subdivision, what constitutes a major subdivision? Engineer Fusco stated that it is defined by the code. If 15% of the open space which says including wetlands, flood plains so and so, what if area of flood plains and wetlands is greater than 15% on the person's land? What do you do then? Section 5, which talks about separability, is very confusing. Chapter 85 which is talking about water, what modifications to private wells are you talking about? And if you are going to take over somebody's private well that they have paid for, I assume you are going to pay them for that well, otherwise that is theft of service, she believes

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or property. How much are you going to pay people for their wells if you're going to take it over. She guesses that once you take over the wells, you would be responsible for maintaining those wells, another cost to the village. Chapter 222 says no parking, standing is for street sweeping she advised that she is going to leave that alone.

- **Howard McLean** - he would like to know exactly what is going on with the water. He has been here almost 30 years and he has never seen anything like this, two weeks ago he had to spend \$8,000 out of his pocket to put a water filtration system in his house. He can't drink it, he can't do laundry with it. The only thing it is good for is flushing. This water is crap, he can't even do his laundry. He held up a tee shirt and advised this is a white tee shirt. He is constantly going out to buy white tee shirts. He has been here 27 years, he used to always get literature about how good the water is in the village, what the hell happened, why is the water like this, he has to buy water from Shoprite. He now had to take out \$8,000 to put a filtration system into his house because he can't brush his teeth, he can't use the water for cooking. What is going on? Instead, he gets a bill for seventy something dollars quarterly, paying for additional garbage pick-up. We went over this almost a year ago and now you broke it up quarterly. He doesn't care about additional garbage pick-up, he lives alone it takes him over a week to fill one garbage bag. If you guys with the large families want additional garbage pick-up, you pay for it, do not push this on the whole town. We don't all have large families like you people. He is more concerned with the water because it is nonsense and he is not going to get reimbursed for the money, but he can't even cook or drink the water and then you have the nerve to send water bill with the sewer, this water is crap and it never used to be like this. He know that they just put all new hydrants in the area and he was told that it was to flush the system out and he doesn't see a difference. He has one right in front of his house right now for over a month and he hasn't seen a difference in the water. He wants to know what is going on with the water supply. He is very pissed off. **Isaac Ekstein** responded that we all have the same issues, we are dealing with the same issues and are trying to make it go away, it is not going to happen over night. He has been residing here almost 9 years and it has been since he moved in. He knows there were improvements made by Merriewold filtration plant, he is not sure what areas that affects. We all have had brown water occasionally, one of the resolutions for this evening is to add the private wells, there a bunch of wells that are just sitting out there and the village doesn't have access to them because they are privately owned. Instead of having to negotiate with them, the board is passing a resolution to have that come to the village in a quicker manner so we have enough water. One of the main reasons that we have brown water is because the water goes short and when we truck water it brings up sediment causing brown water. We are trying to prevent it, we are working with the DEC. No one should have to deal with this. **Mayor Kalaj** we are also working on new wells. **Trustee Guttman** we are working on getting clean water.

➤ **Adjournment**

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- Motion to close the public hearings at 8:15 pm by Mayor Kalaj, seconded by Trustee Rosner. *4 Ayes – Mayor Kalaj, Deputy Mayor Weiss, Trustee Guttman, and Trustee Rosner. 1 Absent - Trustee Feldman*

**REGULAR MEETING**

➤ **Call to order**

- Mayor Kalaj called to order the Village Board Meeting at 8:15 pm on May 5, 2025, 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**

- We are working on improving the water.

➤ **Business**

- **Resolution No. (028)** Resolution of the Mayor of the Village of South Blooming Grove appointing Dov Frankel as Member of the Village Planning Board.
- **Resolution No. (029)** Resolution of the Mayor of the Village of South Blooming Grove appointing Yehoshua Bitman as Chairperson of the Village Zoning Board of Appeals.
- **Resolution No. (030)** Resolution of the Mayor of the Village of South Blooming Grove appointing Sholem Lieberman as Member of the Village Zoning Board of Appeals.
- **Resolution No. (031)** Resolution of the Village Board of the Village of South Blooming Grove declaring Lead Agency for the Water System, Storage, Meters and Distribution System Upgrade and negative declaration. Motion to accept by Trustee Guttman, seconded by Deputy Mayor Weiss, *4 Ayes – Mayor Kalaj, Deputy Mayor Weiss, Trustee Guttman, and Trustee Rosner. 1 Absent Trustee Feldman.*
- **Resolution No. (032)** Resolution of the Village Board of the Village of South Blooming Grove adopting an amended schedule of fees and costs. Motion to accept by Trustee Guttman, seconded by Trustee Rosner, *4 Ayes – Mayor Kalaj, Deputy Mayor Weiss, Trustee Guttman, and Trustee Rosner. 1 Absent Trustee Feldman.*
- **Resolution No. (033)** Resolution of the Village Board of the Village of South Blooming Grove authorizing the Mayor to establish a Department of Public Safety. Motion to accept by Trustee Rosner, seconded by Mayor Kalaj, *4 Ayes – Mayor Kalaj, Deputy Mayor Weiss, Trustee Guttman, and Trustee Rosner. 1 Absent Trustee Feldman.*

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- **Joel Stern** we have tried multiple avenues on how to address the situation on State Route 208 and recently in a short period of time, State Route 208 has become a total stretch of carnage. In the past 40 days we have a total of 8 motor vehicle accidents, he created a timeline so that you understand the total severity of the situation, Mr. Stern read the list of Appendix A to Resolution 34, on March 20 a shuttle bus flipped over with 10 injured passengers, April 2 a vehicle side swiped Route 208 corner of Meriewold Lane South, 2 people injured, April 7, another vehicle side swiped on Route 208 corner of Captain Carpenter, also 2 people injured, one of them is a fellow police officer, Town of Blooming Grove Police Department, on April 9 there was a head-on collision State Route 208 and Merriewold Lane North, 2 people injured, then on April 10 we had a vehicle crash into a utility pole on State Route 208 corner of Stonegate Drive, there was almost 4 fatalities, 10 seconds after the passengers left the vehicle, the vehicle exploded. April 22 another head on collision State Route 208 and corner of Sleep Way, 2 people injured, another head on collision on the same day, Route 208 and Stonegate Drive involving a school bus with kids and on May 4 which was yesterday, another head on collision State Route 208 and the corner of Merriewold Lane North, 3 people injured. This carnage has to stop, and we have to take whatever measures are afforded by law and other emergency powers. If the village creates a State of Emergency and implements those measures. He is asking the board tonight to declare the State of Emergency. It will initially be for 30 days and if it needs to be extended it can be extended. We are in discussions with attorneys to see what available options there are under a State of Emergency to remedy the situation on Route 208 so that it can be safe for all travelers, both living in the village and traversing to and from work every day
- **Resolution No. (034)** Resolution of the Village Board of the Village of South Booming Grove declaring a Local State of Emergency. Motion to accept by Trustee Rosner, seconded by Mayor Kalaj, 4 Ayes – Mayor Kalaj, Deputy Mayor Weiss, Trustee Guttman, and Trustee Rosner. 1 Absent Trustee Feldman.
- **Resolution No. (035)** Resolution of the Village Board of the Village of South Booming Grove declaring Lead Agency with regard to Emergency Water Supply and no significant impact on the environment. Motion to accept by Trustee Guttman, seconded by Mayor Kalaj, 4 Ayes – Mayor Kalaj, Deputy Mayor Weiss, Trustee Guttman, and Trustee Rosner. 1 Absent Trustee Feldman.

➤ **Minutes**

- Motion to adopt the April 7, 2025, Village Board Minutes by Mayor Kalaj, seconded by Trustee Rosner. 4 Ayes – Mayor Kalaj, Deputy Mayor Weiss, Trustee Guttman and Trustee Rosner. 1 Absent -Trustee Feldman.

➤ **Abstract**

- Motion to accept the Abstract 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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➤ **Adjournment**

- Motion to close the meeting at 8:28pm by Mayor Kalaj, seconded by Trustee Rosner. *4 Ayes – Mayor Kalaj, Deputy Mayor Weiss, Trustee Guttman, and Trustee Rosner. 1 Absent Trustee Feldman*

Minutes respectfully submitted by  
Kerry Dougherty, Village Clerk