Blooming Grove Town Board Meeting Minutes for November 4, 2026

Chair Bristol called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM. Other Town Board members in attendance were Supervisors Teuscher, Young, and Schroeder. Supervisor Woznick had not indicated he would absent; he may have forgotten about the revised meeting schedule for the month of November. Also in attendance were Clerk/Treasurer/Administrator John Wright and Deborah Sellers.

Those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Clerk/Treasurer/Administrator Wright attested to proper proof of posting. There were no changes to the agenda as posted.

2a. Continued review of 2027 budgets: one assuming the annexation of the April Hill neighborhood and one that assumes no early annexation prior to October 31, 2027: Wright noted that the two updated budgets presented this evening reflect the cost of living adjustments approved at the October 28, 2026 Town Board meeting. The revised amount of funds to be drawn from outlay accounts and from unallocated funds was highlighted on page 3 of each of the two detailed budgets. The difference between the two budgets is approximately $74,000. Wright stated that he discovered a couple of small errors in the spreadsheet formulae, which have been corrected in these updated copies.

2b. Budget amendment by resolution: Wright introduced the proposed Resolution 2026-07. In addition to moving funds from expense accounts with a surplus with those with a shortfall, the amendment also includes moving $1,223.24 from the Trachte Building outlay account to cover the painting of the building's interior. The other changes reflect Plan Commission wage increases due to additional meetings this year, the purchase of an Automatic External Defibrillator earlier this year, increased cost for legal counsel directly or indirectly tied to the anticipated changes if April Hill is annexed, changes made by Delta Dental after the adoption of the budget this past November in 2025, and to cover additional wages specific to work in Town-managed parks to rebuild a planter, remove a tree, and to remove old park benches.

Supervisor Young moved to approve Resolution 2026-07 to amend the 2026 budget, as presented; 2nd by Supervisor Teuscher. Motion carried 4-0-0. Without objection, Wright will incorporate the changes into the QuickBooks account and will reflect the changes in the proposed 2027 budgets which include 2026 budget numbers as well.

2c. Authorize a Town Board Supervisor as a bank signatory: Wright recommends, regardless of the outcome of the determination by the Village of McFarland Board regarding the possible annexation of the April Hill neighborhood, that an additional board supervisor be authorized to sign payroll checks and checks for vendor payments. A brief discussion followed about whether there is an existing policy as to the approval of monthly finance reports. Currently, Supervisors Young and Schroeder have been appointed to the task of reviewing those monthly reports. If possible, it would be ideal, particularly if the Board is reduced to three members, for the remaining three members to have the authority to sign the monthly financial reports. Those Board members who served in the past recalled that the approvals were recommended as a best practice measure by Johnson Block who conducts the annual financial audit. Without objection, Wright is to research whether there is an adopted policy and to report his findings to the Board at the next meeting.

Chair Bristol moved to authorize Supervisor Schroeder as an additional signatory on Town financial accounts held at Lake Ridge Bank; 2nd by Supervisor Young. Motion carried 4-0-0. Without objection, Wright will share the draft minutes with Laura Peterson at Lake Ridge Bank so that she can begin the process to prepare new signatory cards.

2d. Adopt a resolution that will enable employees to make voluntary contributions to the Deferred Compensation Program: Wright reported that Cory and Lisa Buske had expressed some interest in this program administered by the Department of Employee Trust Funds through Empower. It is a supplemental, optional retirement program. State employees are automatically eligible, whereas local governments must pass a resolution in order to be considered for participation. There are many ways for an employee (this would include the full-time and part time staff) to voluntarily participate in the program. Enrollment does not obligate the Town to make any

contributions, only to authorize for an agent and an alternate agent be assigned to manage employee contributions.

Chair Bristol moved to approve the resolution, as proposed with Wright acting as the designated agent and Kellene Leicht as the alternate agent; 2nd by Supervisor Teuscher. Motion carried 4-0-0.

2e. Adopt amended intergovernmental agreement with the North East Community Court to add the Town of Vienna: The community court, which the Town of Blooming Grove is a member, has the power to add or remove participating municipalities if approved by amending the agreement by all current members. Wright acknowledged that he provided Bob Anderson notification approximately a year ago that the Town will be dissolved upon annexation in 2027. The Town of Wesport, who manage the NECC, have agreed to charge the Town for only three quarters in 2027 instead of four.

Chair Bristol moved to approve the proposed amended intergovernmental agreement, as presented; 2nd by Supervisor Schroeder. Motion carried 4-0-0.

2f. Review revised draft ordinance to consider downsizing the Town Board from five members to three members in the event the April Hill neighborhood is annexed by the Village of McFarland on November 10, 2026 : Chair Bristol stated that he discussed options with attorney Chris Hughes by phone. The options are summarized in the email included in the packet from Kieran O'Day at Stafford Rosenbaum. According to Hughes, the Town should vacate two supervisor seats. This will need to be approved by a majority of the Board (3) even though two members of the five member board may automatically no longer serve if their neighborhood is annexed by the Village of McFarland on November 10, 2026. If the Village approves the annexation, then Associate Attorney O'Day recommends he be in attendance at the meeting when the remaining Board members appoint a new chair and adopt an ordinance to reduce the Board from five to three members to make certain the approvals are in the proper sequence. Currently, the Board is scheduled to meet next on November 18, 2026. Wright expressed his concern that the Type A Notice of Spring Election needs to be published by November 24, 2026, which may not leave enough time to submit it online in order for it to appear in print by that date. There followed a brief discussion as to the need to coordinate the schedules of O'Day, Teuscher, Woznick, and Schroeder for a possible earlier meeting date if the Type A Notice needs to be published instead of posted. Without objection, Wright is to research the publication requirement further and to coordinate a special meeting, if needed.

2g. Update on April Hill subdivision proposed annexation to the Village of McFarland: Chair Bristol provided a brief update regarding a resignation by a Village of McFarland Board Trustee. This will reduce their board from seven members to six. Five members will now be required to vote in favor of the annexation unless a new trustee is appointed or action is deferred to a future meeting date.

3a. Minutes of October 28, 2026: Supervisor Schroeder made a motion to approve the October 28, 2026 minutes, as presented; 2nd by Supervisor Teuscher. Motion carried 3-0-1 (Young abstaining).

3b. Approval of vouchers: Supervisor Young made a motion to approve the vouchers, as presented; 2nd by Supervisor Schroeder. Motion carried 4-0-0.

4. Public Comments: Chair Bristol, acknowledging this might be his final meeting to serve the Town of Blooming Grove, thanked the current and former Board members and Plan Commission members with whom he has served. He expressed further gratitude for the Town's dedicated employees: Cory Buske, Steve Kearney, and John Wright as well as former Clerk/Treasurer Administrator Mike Wolf, Kellene Leicht, and all the election workers who have done a stellar job. He also thanked Deborah Sellers for her participation through meeting attendance and as a volunteer election official. He concluded by saying what an honor it has been to serve the people of Blooming Grove on the Town Board for the past fourteen years, nine of which have been as Chair. Those in attendance applauded and expressed their appreciation of Bristol's dedication and leadership. Supervisor Young also thanked Wright and all the election staff who served nearly 80 percent of the registered voters at yesterday's General Election. Supervisor Teuscher commented

on how beautiful the newly planted trees in Severson Park were during their peak color this autumn.

7. Adjournment: Chair Bristol moved to adjourn the meeting; 2nd by Supervisor Schroeder. Motion carried 3-0 at 6:10 PM.

Minutes written and submitted by John Wright
Town Clerk/Treasurer/Administrator
Approved: November 18, 2026