

**Board of Trustees Meeting**  
**Village of Baxter Estates**  
**January 3, 2024**  
**7:30 PM**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Present:** Mayor Nora Haagenson  
Deputy Mayor Charles Comer  
Trustee Alice Peckelis  
Trustee Maria Branco  
Village Attorney Christopher Prior, Esq.  
Village Clerk-Treasurer Meghan Kelly

**Absent:** Trustee Jeffrey Eluto

Also Present: David Abrams

Mayor Haagenson called the Monthly Meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 6:45PM, noting the attendance of the Board members.

**1. Work Session**

The Board discussed the improvements to the Village Website, an upcoming meeting with State Representative, Angel Vasquez in regard to the ongoing erosion issue at Baxter Beach, the upcoming 2024 Village Election and the upcoming deadlines for candidates, the potential hazardous weather, and the new back door lock.

**2. Resolution to Approve David Abrams as Alternate Tree Commissioner**

David Abrams was appointed as Alternate Tree Commissioner, at the December 6, 2023, monthly meeting and was sworn in by Attorney Chris Prior during the meeting.

**3. Public Hearing on Bill No. 4 of 2023, a proposed local law amending Section 168-12, "Stop intersections," of Chapter 168, "Vehicles and Traffic," of the Village Code to authorize stop sign on Locust Avenue at intersection with North Washington Street.**

At approximately 7:30 PM Mayor Haagenson opened the Public Hearing duly advertised in the December 20, 2023, issue of the Port Washington News for the Public Hearing on Bill No. 4 of 2023, a proposed local law amending Section 168-12, "Stop intersections," of Chapter 168, "Vehicles and Traffic," of the Village Code to authorize stop sign on Locust Avenue at intersection with North Washington Street.

On a motion by Deputy Mayor Comer, seconded by Trustee Peckelis, it was unanimously **RESOLVED** to close the public hearing at 7:32 PM.

**4. Resolution to Approve Bill No. 4 of 2023, a proposed local law amending Section 168-12, "Stop intersections," of Chapter 168, "Vehicles and Traffic," of the Village Code to authorize stop sign on Locust Avenue at intersection with North Washington Street.**

On a motion by Deputy Mayor Comer, seconded by Trustee Peckelis, it was unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve Bill No. 4 of 2023, a proposed local law amending Section 168-12, "Stop intersections," of Chapter 168, "Vehicles and Traffic," of the Village Code to authorize stop sign on Locust Avenue at intersection with North Washington Street, as Local Law 1 of 2024.

**5. Approval of Minutes of the December 6, 2023, Meeting.**

The approval was tabled for further revisions.

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**6. Approval of Minutes of the December 13, 2023, Special Meeting.**

On a motion by Trustee Branco, seconded by Deputy Mayor Comer, it was **RESOLVED** to accept the draft minutes of the December 13, 2023, Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees, with one abstention from Trustee Peckelis.

**7. Review of Street Sweeping Contract to be Bid**

The Board reviewed the draft Street Sweeping Contract, and some suggested changes were requested, subject to those changes being made and on motion by Deputy Mayor Comer, seconded by Trustee Branco, it was unanimously **RESOLVED** to authorize the Village Clerk-Treasurer to solicit bids for the 2024-2026 Street Sweeping Contract.

**8. Resolution to Authorize Home Rule Request for Enactment of Senate Bill S.7410/Assembly Bill A.7544, an Act Granting Retroactive Membership with Tier IV Status in the New York State and Local Employees' Retirement System to Dawn Ward, Baxter Estates Court Clerk.**

It was discussed that on June 7, 2023, the Board convened for their monthly meeting and approved a request from Assemblyman Ed Ra in conjunction with Senator Jack Martins to allow a bill to grant retroactive membership with Tier IV status to Court Clerk, Dawn Ward. The Village was recently notified that there was not enough time to get it passed through the Legislature in 2023 and that Home Rules are only valid for the calendar year in which they are received, thus a new request to be completed for 2024.

On a motion by Deputy Mayor Comer, seconded by Trustee Branco, it was unanimously **RESOLVED** to Authorize the Mayor and Village Clerk, on behalf of the Village, to sign and submit to Assembly Home Rule Counsel for the NYS Assembly, and to Senate Home Rule Counsel to the NYS Senate, a Home Rule Request the Enactment of Senate Bill S.7410/Assembly Bill A.7544, an Act Granting Retroactive Membership with Tier IV Status in the New York State and Local Employees' Retirement System to Dawn Ward, Baxter Estates Court Clerk, to correct her date of entry into, and Tier status in, membership in NYS&LRS.

**9. 2024 Election Resolution**

Clerk-Treasurer Kelly presented a copy of a resolution for the upcoming 2024 Village Election in accordance with Election Law Section #15-118(3).

On a motion made by Deputy Mayor Comer, seconded by Trustee Peckelis, it was unanimously **RESOLVED** as follows:

**WHEREAS**, the Board of Trustees hereby ratifies and confirms, with respect to the 2024 Village Election, in accordance with Election Law Section #15-118(3), that (i) there has not been, and shall be, no Village personal Registration Day to determine persons eligible to vote in Village Elections, and (ii) voter eligibility in Village Elections shall be determined in accordance with laws, rules and regulations applicable in the absence of such a Village personal registration days, unless and until the Board of Trustees, by resolution duly adopted, reinstates Village Personal Registration Day with respect to the 2024 Village Election, and

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that all Village of Baxter Estates residents registered with the Nassau County Board of Elections are eligible to vote in the Village Election, and

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the election inspectors shall be selected from the list of certified inspectors supplied by the Nassau County Board of Elections and that should there be a shortage of election inspectors within the Election District of the Village of Baxter Estates, that the selection extend the residency of inspectors to Nassau County to satisfy New York State Election Law conditions for selecting election inspectors, and

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**FURTHER RESOLVED** that Angela Smith and Marylou Ogren be hereby designated and appointed to act as Inspectors of Election at the rate of \$15 per hour plus one meal and beverages per Election Inspector at a cost not to exceed \$25 each, with Angela Smith presiding as Election Chairperson; and

**FURTHER RESOLVED** that prior to the start of the March 19, 2024, Village Election, the Inspectors must meet to adopt, use or copy from the registration list, certified and supplied by the Nassau County Board of Elections, the names appearing thereon of all persons residing in the Village and qualified to vote at such forthcoming general Village Election; and

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Village Election will be held on Tuesday, March 19, 2024, and that the official polling place will be Village Hall, located at 315 Main Street, Port Washington NY and said polling place shall be opened at noon of said day and shall close at 9:00 PM.

**10. Return of the 2023-2024 Tax Roll and Warrant**

The Board reviewed the outstanding property tax amounts, and no action was taken.

**11. Approval of Vouchers**

On a motion by Deputy Mayor Comer, seconded by Trustee Peckelis, it was unanimously **RESOLVED** that the Abstract of Audited Vouchers, dated December 6, 2023, for the General Fund totaling \$33,525.60 is approved for payment.

**12. Financial Report & Audit**

Clerk-Treasurer Kelly provided the Board of Trustees with the Financial Report and recommended budget modifications.

On a motion by Deputy Mayor Comer, seconded by Trustee Peckelis, it was unanimously **RESOLVED** to authorize Village Clerk-Treasurer Kelly to apply for reimbursement for the LED Street Light Replacement Program, through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to cover the \$26,370.00 expenditure.

**13. Clerk's Public Works & Public Safety Report**

Village Clerk-Treasurer Kelly provided a Public Works & Public Safety Report.

There being no further business before the Board, on motion made by Deputy Mayor Comer, seconded by Trustee Peckelis, it was unanimously **RESOLVED** that the meeting be and hereby is adjourned at 8:11 PM.

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Meghan Kelly, Village Clerk-Treasurer