

**Board of Trustees Special Meeting**  
**Village of Baxter Estates**  
**April 1, 2025**  
**5:00 PM**

**Special Meeting Minutes**

**Present:** Mayor Nora Haagenson  
Deputy Mayor Charles Comer  
Trustee Alice Peckelis  
Trustee Maria Branco  
Trustee Alexander Price  
Village Clerk-Treasurer Meghan Kelly

**Absent:** None

Mayor Haagenson called the Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 5:00 PM, noting the presence of a quorum.

**1. Discussion on the Draft Budget**

The Board of Trustees reviewed and discussed the draft budget for the fiscal year beginning June 1, 2025, and ending May 31, 2026. The discussion included an overview of projected revenues and expenditures, anticipated challenges, and potential adjustments to ensure future financial stability while preserving the services rendered and budgeting for future projects.

**2. Amendment to 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.**

The Village Clerk noted that at the June 7, 2023, monthly Board meeting, the Board approved a request from Assemblyman Ed Ra in conjunction with Senator Jack Martins to submit to the New York State Legislature a home rule message in favor of a bill to grant retroactive membership in the New York State and Local Retirement System ("NYS&LRS"), with Tier IV status, to Village Court Clerk Dawn Ward, in order to rectify the failure of another village for whom Ms. Ward was employed when she initially was eligible for such membership to timely accomplish filing with NYS&LRS on her behalf. Several other villages for whom Ms. Ward serves as court clerk submitted their own home rule messages. The Clerk reminded the Board that the financial impact upon the Village is negligible and, in any event, merely awards Ms. Ward the rights to which she is entitled. The Village was recently notified that there was not enough time to get the contemplated special legislation passed in 2023 and that Home Rule messages are only valid for the calendar year in which they are received. Therefore, the NYS Legislative process for the special legislation must begin anew, and our NYS legislators requested a new home rule message for 2024.

Accordingly, at the Board's January 3, 2024, meeting, the Board by resolution authorized the Mayor to submit a new home rule message for use by the Legislature in 2024. Thereafter, Assemblyman Ra's office advised the Village that the relevant bill has been assigned updated Bill numbers by the Assembly and the Senate, and so the home rule message submitted in accord with the January 3, 2024, Board resolution must be amended to reflect the new bill numbers, to which it was approved with the updated Bill numbers on February 7, 2024.

This request was denied by the Governor's office in December 2024. Following this decision, Assemblyman Ed Ra and Senator Jack Martins have reintroduced the request for retroactive tier membership with minor revisions, aiming to secure approval from the Governor's office.

On a motion by Deputy Mayor Comer, seconded by Trustee Peckelis, it was unanimously **RESOLVED** to Authorize the Mayor and Village Clerk, on behalf of the Village, to sign and submit to Assembly Home Rule

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Counsel for the NYS Assembly, and to Senate Home Rule Counsel to the NYS Senate, an amended Home Rule Request supporting the enactment of Senate Bill S.5928/Assembly Bill A.5393, 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.

**3. Approval of Vouchers**

On a motion by Deputy Mayor Comer, seconded by Trustee Branco, it was unanimously **RESOLVED** that the Abstract of Audited Vouchers, dated April 1, 2025, for the General Fund totaling \$36,680.77 is approved for payment.

There being no further business before the Board, on motion made by Deputy Mayor Comer, seconded by Trustee Branco, it was unanimously **RESOLVED** that the meeting be and hereby is adjourned at 5:53 PM.

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Meghan Kelly, Village Clerk-Treasurer