

REQUEST THAT LEGISLATURE/GOVERNOR INCLUDE FUNDING IN THE 2023 BUDGET FOR COMMUNITIES FOLLOWING PENSION BEST PRACTICES ESTABLISHED BY THE STATE

At a regular meeting of the Township Board of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, held on the 25th day of April 2023, at 6:00 p.m. local time.

PRESENT: Supervisor Jackson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees Hendrickson, Sundland, Wilson Wisinski

ABSENT: _____

The following resolution was offered by Clerk Guthrie and supported by Trustee Wilson.

WHEREAS, Meridian Township has taken financially difficult steps to stabilize its pension program and get its pension costs and liabilities under control; and

WHEREAS, these steps followed best practices established by the State of Michigan and kept Meridian Township operationally viable in the face of enormous financial pressure; and

WHEREAS, HB 5054 of 2022 would have divided \$250 million between Meridian Township and other communities like it, that made the tough decisions and followed those best practices; and

WHEREAS, Meridian Township and others like it are ineligible for \$750 million in pension relief allocated by the State in 2022 despite experiencing the same pension-related financial stresses as those who will receive that relief; and

WHEREAS, these stresses have been amplified by market losses in 2022 and a volatile market in 2023; and

WHEREAS, this \$250 million would have immeasurable impact on our ability to address our pension liabilities, maintain employment levels, and provide the services our taxpayers depend upon; and

WHEREAS, both the \$750 million allocated and the \$250 million requested here had broad, bipartisan support in the House a year ago; and

WHEREAS, HB 5054 created an equitable balance between those with pensions the House considered substantially underfunded and those who had followed best practices to achieve a higher funding ratio; and

WHEREAS, unallocated revenues are available to the State in 2023 to again make this pension assistance equitable by helping those communities struggling with pension costs, but ineligible for the \$750 million; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWNSHIP BOARD OF THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF MERIDIAN, INGHAM COUNTY, MICHIGAN, asks the State of Michigan Legislature and Governor's Office to revisit HB 5054; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Legislature and Governor give bipartisan support to the inclusion of the \$250 million in the 2023 State budget to be divided between communities including Meridian Township that meet the best practices required in that Bill.

ADOPTED: YEAS: Supervisor Jackson, Clerk Guthrie, Treasurer Deschaine, Trustees
Hendrickson, Sundland, Wilson, Wisinski

NAYS: _____

STATE OF MICHIGAN)
) ss
COUNTY OF INGHAM)

I, the undersigned, the duly qualified and acting Clerk of the Township Board of the Charter Township of Meridian, Ingham County, Michigan, DO HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted at a regular meeting of the Township Board on the 25th day of April 2023.



Deborah Guthrie
Meridian Township Clerk