

RESOLUTION 14-055

SUPPORTING LOCAL COMMUNITY STABILIZATION AND PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX REFORM WITHOUT RAISING TAXES

At a regular meeting of the CITY OF GRAYLING held in the City Council Chamber Room 1020 City Boulevard, Grayling MI on the 12 of May

PRESENT:

ABSENT:

The following resolution was offered by Moshier and seconded by DeVries:

WHEREAS, local governments in Michigan have struggled with unstable funding needed to provide services; and

WHEREAS, Michigan businesses have struggled with an uncompetitive tax on business; and

WHEREAS, small businesses and manufacturers power our economy and are the largest contributor to job growth in Michigan; and

WHEREAS, no other state in our region taxes business equipment the way Michigan does – and most of those states don't tax it at all, which makes Michigan significantly less competitive when it comes to job creation and business investment; and

WHEREAS, Michigan communities have struggled for years to pay for essential services like police, fire, ambulances, schools and jails; and

WHEREAS, Michigan communities have relied on this shrinking source of Personal Property Tax revenue to provide other community services as well, including roads, transportation and libraries; and

WHEREAS, with bipartisan support the Michigan Legislature has voted to reform the antiquated personal property tax to help increase Michigan's competitiveness with other states and remove an onerous tax that will allow more business investment and create more jobs while providing a stable revenue source for local communities; and

WHEREAS, this is not a constitutional amendment but the state constitution requires Michigan voters to approve certain changes in local taxes; and

WHEREAS, local governments have struggled with unstable funding needed to provide services and business have struggled with an uncompetitive tax on equipment for years; and

WHEREAS, the proposal will make Michigan more competitive, which will help local communities to attract more businesses and talent and create local jobs; and

WHEREAS, the proposal is supported by the Michigan Municipal League, the Michigan Townships Association, Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police, Michigan Association of Police Organizations, Michigan Community College Association, Michigan Farm Bureau, the Small Business Association of Michigan, Michigan Sheriffs Association, Michigan Chamber of Commerce, National Association of Independent Businesses and the Michigan Manufacturers Association, among others; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the CITY COUNCIL of the CITY OF GRAYLING hereby expresses its strong support for the proposal to eliminate the unfair double tax and strengthen our communities. We urge our residents to vote YES on this proposal on August 5, 2014.

Lisa K. Johnson, City Clerk/Treasurer

Date