

RESOLUTION NO. 2023-01

A Resolution Urging Legislature and Governor to Fix Broken System of Funding Critical Local Services

WHEREAS, Wisconsin's system for funding vital local services like police, fire protection, EMS, well maintained streets, parks and libraries is broken, unsustainable, and needs to be reformed; and

WHEREAS, communities are forced to rely on property taxes and flat or declining state aid to pay for critical local services that residents and businesses need; and

WHEREAS, state sales and income tax revenues have tripled in the last 30 years, but the share of those taxes going to support police, fire, EMS, and other local services has gone DOWN; and

WHEREAS, over the last 20 years, state aid for police, fire, and other critical services has steadily declined in real dollars, while inflation has caused average prices to increase by 51 percent. (The funding level for County and Municipal Aid in 2003 was \$938,529,507. Today, it is \$753,032,613); and

WHEREAS, County and Municipal Aid payments to the Village of River Hills has dropped from \$86,439 in 2003 to \$20,617 in 2022; and

WHEREAS, the steady decline in the state's contribution to the cost of critical local services has forced communities to rely more heavily on property taxes to maintain police, fire, and EMS service levels; and

WHEREAS, the over reliance on property taxes to pay for critical local services must end; and

WHEREAS, to compete globally, Wisconsin needs to develop and maintain quality communities that can attract and retain talent and enterprise and spur job creation; and

WHEREAS, for local communities to flourish and the state's economy to grow, state and local leaders must work collaboratively; and

WHEREAS, Local governments need reliable, growing, sustainable, and diverse sources of revenue to continue to deliver police, fire protection, ambulance services and safe streets now and into the future.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the River Hills Board of Trustees urges the Legislature and the Governor to work collaboratively with the League of Wisconsin Municipalities, Wisconsin Counties Association, Wisconsin Towns Association, other local government leaders, and business leaders to create a better way of funding local governments that includes revenue options other than property taxes to continue delivering police, fire, EMS, and other critical services.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Village Board of the Village of River Hills this 15th day of February, 2023.

VILLAGE OF RIVER HILLS

Christopher B. Noyes, Village President

Countersigned:

Tammy LaBorde
Village Manager/Clerk/Treasurer

