

**WATERTOWN CHARTER TOWNSHIP
CLINTON COUNTY, MICHIGAN**

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE PRINCIPLES OF SMART GROWTH

WHEREAS, Watertown Charter Township has been engaged in, and has recognized the value of, long-range comprehensive planning which considers anticipated regional growth and development for more than 40 years; and

WHEREAS, Watertown Charter Township has an adopted Master Plan in accordance with the Michigan Planning Enabling Act 33 of 2008, which requires the consideration of neighboring municipalities and is coordinated, adjusted, harmonious, efficient, and economical; and

WHEREAS, Watertown Charter Township's adopted master plan, was updated to recognize the ten principles of Smart Growth in 2009; and

WHEREAS, these principles of Smart Growth are a foundation on which Watertown Charter Township supports economic growth, a strong community, and environmental sustainability; and

WHEREAS, Smart Growth strategies offer a framework to adopt a vision that enables the entire community to benefit from its local rural heritage and resources, just as all can share jointly in its sensible growth and development and thoughtful conservation of rural character; and

WHEREAS, by using Smart Growth principles and targeting new development into existing growth areas where infrastructure already exists, or for which expansion is planned, the township and local region can ensure that private investment generates the maximum benefit for the community while avoiding the expense of providing new infrastructure that is required for greenfield development at unnecessary cost to taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, it is fiscally irresponsible and in conflict with Smart Growth principles to extend utilities, public water and sewer infrastructure, and other services to greenfield areas when regional brownfields with access to these facilities exist and are in need of redevelopment, particularly when communities with these brownfield sites have developed redevelopment ready strategies and incentives to target this type of development; and

WHEREAS, Watertown Charter Township specifically recognizes the Smart Growth principle to "Encourage Community and Stakeholder Collaboration: Growth can create great places to live, work, and play – if it responds to a community's own sense of how and where it wants to grow," as the township firmly believes in building a strong community through public input and strategic, long-range planning that fosters buy-in from the community; and

WHEREAS, Watertown Charter Township also acknowledges the Smart Growth principle to "Make Development Decisions Predictable, Fair, and Cost Effective," as the township has adopted a master plan and zoning ordinance with this goal in mind; and

WHEREAS, Watertown Charter Township specifically recognizes the Smart Growth principle to “Preserve Open Space, Farmland, Natural Beauty, and Critical Environmental Areas: Open space preservation supports smart growth goals by bolstering local economies, preserving critical environmental areas, improving our communities quality of life, and guiding new growth into existing communities,” as the Board of Trustees addressed in their recent Resolution in Support of Agriculture in Watertown Charter Township; and

WHEREAS, Watertown Charter Township also acknowledges the Smart Growth principle to “Strengthen and Direct Development Towards Existing Communities: Smart growth directs development towards existing communities already served by infrastructure, seeking to utilize the resources that existing neighborhoods offer, and conserve open space and irreplaceable natural features on the urban fringe,” as for decades Watertown Charter Township has ensured that utility and infrastructure planning has concurrency with the township’s long-range development plans; and

WHEREAS, development decisions affect the daily lives of the residents, business owners, and visitors to Watertown Charter Township – their homes, their health, the schools their children attend, the taxes they pay, their daily commute, the natural environment around them, economic growth in their community, and the opportunity to achieve their personal goals – and how the township directs development decisions will have significant effects on their lives and livelihoods; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that when the principles of Smart Growth are realized through careful planning for growth, development, conservation, and sustainability, Watertown Charter Township preserves the best of its past while creating a bright future for generations to come.

CERTIFICATION

I, the undersigned duly qualified Clerk of Watertown Charter Township, Clinton County, Michigan do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution duly adopted by the Township Board of Trustees of the Charter Township of Watertown, County of Clinton, Michigan at a regular meeting held on February 21, 2023 at 7:00PM EST and that said meeting was conducted and public notice of said meeting was given pursuant to and in full compliance with the Open Meetings Act, being Act 267, Public Acts of Michigan, 1976.

I further certify that the following Members were present at said meeting: Supervisor Maahs, Clerk Brokob, Treasurer Biergans, Trustee Hufnagel, Trustee Cooley, Trustee Overton, and Trustee Madill

And that the following Members were absent: None

A motion to adopt the foregoing resolution was made by Trustee Madill and seconded by Trustee Cooley
A vote on the foregoing resolution was as follows:

Yes: Madill, Hufnagel, Maahs, Brokob, Biergans, Cooley, Overton

No: None

Resolution Declared: Adopted



Carolyn Brokob, Clerk

Date: February 21, 2023