

***VILLAGE BOARD RESOLUTION NO. 2023-02***

**VILLAGE OF PORT EDWARDS  
WOOD COUNTY, WISCONSIN**

**RESOLUTION URGING THE STATE LEGISLATURE TO FIX THE BROKEN SYSTEM OF  
FUNDING CRITICAL SERVICES**

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF PORT EDWARDS, WOOD COUNTY, WISCONSIN, A MUNICIPAL CORPORATION:

WHEREAS, Wisconsin's system for funding vital services like police, fire protection, EMS well maintained streets, parks and libraries is broken, unsustainable, and needs to be reformed, and 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 62 percent. The funding level for the Village was \$255,817 in 2003, in 2023 it is \$225,400 a 12% decrease over 20 years; 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, EMS and critical services; and

WHEREAS, the overreliance on property taxes to pay for critical services must end, and to compete regionally, nationally and 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 Local governments need reliable, growing, sustainable, and diverse sources of revenue to continue to deliver police, fire, EMS and other critical services and safe streets now and into the future; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Village of Port Edwards urges the State Legislature and the Governor to work collaboratively with the Wisconsin league of Municipalities, Wisconsin Counties association, Wisconsin Towns Association, and other government leaders and business leaders to create a better way of funding local governments that includes revenue options other than property taxes to continue to deliver police, fire, EMS and other critical services.

Adopted the 14<sup>th</sup> of February 2023.

VILLAGE OF PORT EDWARDS  
WOOD COUNTY, WISCONSIN

---

Joseph H. Zurfluh, Village President

---

Diane M. Tremmel, Village Clerk

By a Vote of: \_\_\_\_\_ in Favor, \_\_\_\_\_ Opposed, \_\_\_\_\_ Abstain