

**VILLAGE OF ONTONAGON
RESOLUTION NO. 2021 – 08**

**A RESOLUTION TO ENSURE CONTINUED SUPPORT FOR FORMER EMPLOYEES OF THE
ONTONAGON MEMORIAL HOSPITAL AND THEIR PENSIONS FROM THE MUNICIPAL
EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT SYSTEM (MERS) OF MICHIGAN**

At an electronic meeting of the Village Council of the Village of Ontonagon, held on the 22nd day of February, 2021, in the offices at 315 Quartz Street, Ontonagon, Michigan, the following resolution was offered by Trustee Hopper and supported by Trustee Hamm:

RECITALS

WHEREAS, the Ontonagon Memorial Hospital served the citizens of Ontonagon County and thousands of visitors to the area until 2007, and

WHEREAS, when the Hospital was sold to Aspirus Hospital of Wausau, Wisconsin, the the Village of Ontonagon Council of Trustees voted to assume the MERS pension obligations to over 100 former Ontonagon Memorial Hospital employees to keep a hospital in Ontonagon County, and

WHEREAS, the Village of Ontonagon is unique in that it is the smallest municipality to have ever assumed a liability of this nature, and

WHEREAS, the Village of Ontonagon, like many other governmental entities that participate in a MERS pension program, has struggled to keep up with the required financial obligations to MERS, and facing even higher obligations in the future, and

WHEREAS, the Village is dedicating over \$400,000 of its \$640,000 General Funds revenues in Fiscal Year 2021-2022 to meet the MERS obligations, and

WHEREAS, the required financial obligation to MERS continues to increase each year and the MERS obligation exceeds the Village's ability to fund the obligation, and

WHEREAS, under the current circumstances and the Village's limited resources, the Village of Ontonagon can no longer meet the financial requirements of MERS to fund the Ontonagon Memorial Hospital employees' pension plan without assistance from other entities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Village of Ontonagon Council of Trustees declares that it must seek and request assistance from its community partners to secure adequate funding from the legislature of the State of Michigan and other governmental agencies to meet the Ontonagon Memorial Hospital employees' pension obligations.

THIS RESOLUTION is hereby approved by roll call vote:

Donald Chastan, Trustee	<u>yes</u>
John Hamm, Trustee	<u>yes</u>
Sarah Hopper, Trustee	<u>yes</u>
Elmer Marks, Jr., Trustee	<u>yes</u>
Tony Smydra, President	<u>yes</u>

And, adopted by a 2/3rds vote of the Village Council of the Village of Ontonagon, this 22nd day of February, 2021.

I hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a resolution adopted by the Village Council of the Village of Ontonagon, County of Ontonagon, State of Michigan, at an electronic meeting held on Monday, February 22nd, 2021, 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 of Public Acts of Michigan 1976, and that the minutes of said meeting were kept and will be or have been made available as required by said Act.



William DuPont, Village Clerk