

RDA REPORT

Southview Trails
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Account 3294 - Version 001
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This reserve analysis study and the parameters under which it has been completed are based upon information provided to us in part by representatives of the association, its contractors, assorted vendors, specialist and independent contractors, the Community Associations Institute, various construction pricing and scheduling manuals including, but not limited to: Marshall & Swift Valuation Service, RS Means Facilities Maintenance & Repair Cost Data, RS Means Repair & Remodeling Cost Data, National Construction Estimator, National Repair & Remodel Estimator, Dodge Cost Manual and the McGraw Hill Book Company. Additionally, costs are obtained from numerous vendor catalogues, actual quotations or historical costs, and our own experience in the field of property management and preparation of reserve analysis studies.

It has been assumed, unless otherwise noted in this report, that all assets have been designed and constructed properly and each estimated useful life will approximate that of the norm per industry standards and/or manufacture specifications used. In some cases, estimates may have been used on assets which have an indeterminable but potential liability to the association. The decision for the inclusion of these as well as all assets considered is left to the client.

We recommend that your reserve analysis study be updated every two to three years due to fluctuating interest rates, inflationary changes and the unpredictable nature of the lives of many of the assets under consideration. All of the information collected during our inspection of the association and subsequent computations made in preparing this reserve analysis study are retained in our computer files. Therefore, updates can typically be completed in a more timely manner than the original study.

Reserve Data Analysis, Inc. would like to thank you for using our services, and we invite you to call us at any time should you have any questions or comments or need assistance. In addition, any of the parameters and estimates used in this study may be changed at your request, after which we will provide you with a revised study.

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PART I - INTRODUCTION

Preparing the annual budget and overseeing the association's finances are perhaps the most important responsibilities of board members. The annual operating and reserve budgets reflect the planning and goals of the association and set the level and quality of service for all of the association's activities.

■ 1. Funding Options

When a major repair or replacement is required in a community, an association has essentially four options available to address the expenditure:

The first option is to pass a "special assessment" to the membership in an amount required to cover the expenditure. Although not commonplace, there have been special assessments in the amount of \$10,000 per member assessed in associations in Virginia and southern California. When a special assessment is passed, the association has the authority and responsibility to collect the assessments, even by means of foreclosure if necessary. However, an association operating on a special assessment basis cannot guarantee that an assessment, when needed, will be passed. Consequently, it cannot guarantee its ability to perform the required repairs or replacements to those major components for which the association is obligated to maintain when the need arises. Additionally, while relatively new communities require very little in the way of major "reserve" expenditures, associations reaching 12 to 15 years of age and older find many components reaching the end of their effective useful lives. These required expenditures, all accruing at the same time, can be devastating to an association's overall budget.

The second option is for the association to acquire a loan from a lending institution in order to effect the required repairs. In many cases, banks will lend money to an association using "future homeowner assessments" as collateral for the loan. With this method, not only is the current board of directors pledging the future assets of an association, they are also required to pay interest fees on the loan payback in addition to the original principal. In the case of a \$150,000 roofing replacement, the association may be required to pay back the loan over a three to five year period, with interest; whereas, if the association was setting aside reserves for this purpose, using the

vehicle of the regularly assessed membership dues, it would have had the full term of the life of the roof in order to accumulate the necessary moneys. Additionally, those contributions would have been evenly distributed over the entire membership and would have earned interest as part of that contribution.

The third option, too often used, is simply to defer the required repair or replacement. This option can create an environment of declining property values due to the increasing deferred maintenance and the association's financial inability to keep pace with the normal aging process of the common area components. This, in turn, can have a seriously negative impact on sellers in the Association by making it difficult or even impossible for potential buyers to obtain financing from lenders. Increasingly, many lending institutions are requesting copies of the association's most recent reserve study before granting loans, either for the association, a prospective purchaser, or for an individual within such association.

The fourth, and only logical means that the board of directors has to ensure its ability to maintain the assets for which it is obligated, uniformly distributing the costs of the replacements over the entire membership, is by assessing an adequate level of reserves as part of the regular membership assessment. The community is not only comprised of present members, but also future members. Any decision by the board of directors to adopt a calculation method or funding plan which would disproportionately burden future members in order to make up for past reserve deficits would be a breach of its fiduciary responsibility to those future members. Unlike individuals determining their own course of action, the board is responsible to the "community" as a whole.

■ 2. The Reserve Study

There are two components of a reserve study – a physical analysis and a financial analysis. During the physical analysis, a reserve provider evaluates information regarding the physical status and repair/replacement cost of the association's major common area components. To do so, the provider conducts a component inventory, a condition assessment, and life and valuation estimates. A financial analysis assesses the association's reserve balance or "fund status" (measured in cash or as percent funded) to determine a recommendation for an appropriate reserve contribution rate in the future known as the "funding plan."

Reserve studies fit into one of three categories: 1) Full Study; 2) Update - with site inspection; and 3) Update - without site inspection.

- In a Full reserve study, the reserve provider conducts a component inventory, a condition assessment (based upon on-site visual observations), and life and valuation estimates to determine both a "fund status" and "funding plan."

- In an Update – with site inspection, the reserve provider conducts a component inventory (verification only, not quantification), a condition assessment (based on on-site visual observations), and life and valuation estimates to determine both the “fund status” and “funding plan.”
- In an Update – without site inspection, the reserve provider conducts life and valuation estimates to determine the “fund status” and “funding plan.”

■ 3. Developing a Component List

The budget process begins with an accurate inventory of all the major components for which the association is responsible. The determination of whether an expense should be labeled as operational, reserve, or excluded altogether is sometimes subjective. Since this labeling may have a major impact on the financial plans of the association, subjective determinations should be minimized. We suggest the following considerations when labeling an expense:

OPERATIONAL EXPENSES occur at least annually, no matter how large the expense, and can be effectively budgeted for each year. They are characterized as being reasonably predictable both in terms of frequency and cost. Operational expenses include all minor expenses which would not otherwise adversely affect an operational budget from one year to the next. Examples of Operational Expenses include:

Utilities:

- Electricity
- Gas
- Water
- Telephone
- Cable TV

Services:

- Landscaping
- Pool Maintenance
- Street Sweeping
- Accounting
- Reserve Study

Administrative:

- Supplies
- Bank Service Charges
- Dues & Publications
- Licenses, Permits & Fees

Repair Expenses:

- Tile Roof Repairs
- Equipment Repairs
- Minor Concrete Repairs
- Operating Contingency

RESERVE EXPENSES are major expenses that occur other than annually and which must be budgeted for in advance in order to provide the necessary funds in time