

## 5.METHODOLOGY

Reserves for replacement are the amounts of money required for future expenditures to repair or replace Reserve Components that wear out before the entire facility or project wears out. Reserving funds for future repair or replacement of the Reserve Components is also one of the most reliable ways of protecting the value of the property's infrastructure and marketability.

Trails West can fund capital repairs and replacements in any combination of the following:

1. Increases in the operating budget during years when the shortages occur
2. Loans using borrowed capital for major replacement projects
3. Level quarterly reserve assessments annually adjusted upward for inflation to increase reserves to fund the expected major future expenditures
4. Special assessments

We do not advocate special assessments or loans unless near term circumstances dictate otherwise. Although loans provide a gradual method of funding a replacement, the costs are higher than if the Association were to accumulate reserves ahead of the actual replacement. Interest earnings on reserves also accumulate in this process of saving or reserving for future replacements, thereby defraying the amount of gradual reserve collections. We advocate the third method of *Level Monthly Reserve Assessments* with relatively minor annual adjustments. The method ensures that Homeowners pay their "fair share" of the weathering and aging of the commonly owned property each year. Level reserve assessments preserve the property and enhance the resale value of the homes.

This Reserve Study is in compliance with and exceeds the National standards<sup>1</sup> set forth by the Association of Professional Reserve Analysts (APRA) fulfilling the requirements of a "Level I Full Reserve Study." These standards require a Reserve Component to have a "predictable remaining Useful Life." Estimating Remaining Useful Lives and Reserve Expenditures beyond 30 years is often indeterminate. Long-Lived Property Elements are necessarily excluded from this analysis. We considered the following factors in our analysis:

- The Cash Flow Method to compute, project and illustrate the 30-year Reserve Funding Plan
- Local<sup>2</sup> costs of material, equipment and labor
- Current and future costs of replacement for the Reserve Components
- Costs of demolition as part of the cost of replacement
- Local economic conditions and a historical perspective to arrive at our estimate of long-term future inflation for construction costs in DeLand,

<sup>1</sup> Identified in the APRA "Standards - Terms and Definitions" and the CAI "Terms and Definitions".

<sup>2</sup> See Credentials for additional information on our use of published sources of cost data.

Florida at an annual inflation rate<sup>3</sup>. Isolated or regional markets of greater construction (development) activity may experience slightly greater rates of inflation for both construction materials and labor.

- The past and current maintenance practices of Trails West and their effects on remaining useful lives
- Financial information provided by the Association pertaining to the cash status of the reserve fund and budgeted reserve contribution
- The anticipated effects of appreciation of the reserves over time in accord with a return or yield on investment of your cash equivalent assets. (We did not consider the costs, if any, of Federal and State Taxes on income derived from interest and/or dividend income).
- The Funding Plan excludes necessary operating budget expenditures. It is our understanding that future operating budgets will provide for the ongoing normal maintenance of Reserve Components.

Updates to this Reserve Study will continue to monitor historical facts and trends concerning the external market conditions.

<sup>3</sup> Derived from Marshall & Swift, historical costs and the Bureau of Labor Statistics.