

**SPECIAL MEETING  
SHELDON AND JAVA TOWN BOARDS  
with the Strykersville Fire Department  
June 27, 2023  
Held at the Strykersville Fire Hall 7pm**

The Special Meeting of the Sheldon and Java Town Boards held June 27, 2023 at the Strykersville Fire Hall, 594 Minkel Rd., Strykersville, NY 14145 was called to order by Vickie Reisdorf, President of the Strykersville Fire Company at 7:00 p.m.

Present Town of Sheldon: Supervisor Brian Becker  
Board members: Joe Meyer, Mike Armbrust, Vince Kirsch  
Recording Secretary: Town Clerk Carol Zittel  
Absent: Board member Jim Fontaine

Present Town of Java: Supervisor Vanessa McCormick  
Board members: Russ Reisdorf, Dave George, Doug George  
Town Clerk: Carrie Graham  
Absent: Board member Karen George

The Strykersville Volunteer Fire Company submitted the following letter which was accompanied by an excel spreadsheet. Andy Hope from the Strykersville Fire Company compiled the spreadsheet and displayed it on a projection screen while giving an explanation of how the numbers were calculated. The excel spreadsheet is on file in the Town Clerk's respective offices.

To the Java and Sheldon Town Boards:

Subject: Future contract - explanatory notes to accompany attached spreadsheet

**Introduction**

The most significant individual expenses we have are our trucks. To reduce those expenses, in the past years we have downsized or "rightsized" our fleet by two major trucks. As explained below and detailed in the budget spreadsheet, we estimate that it should cost us about \$104,000 per year to pay for or replace the current fleet as trucks reach their end of useful life. However, due to past budget constraints, we are significantly behind in the scheduled replacement cycle and are catching up. We now estimate that it will cost us about \$124,000 per year over the next ten years to get us on track. Historically, Strykersville Fire has contracted in five-year cycles with the towns. During the past two years when we presented our contract funding request with a detailed justification, we had budgeted to get the next vehicles being replaced and paid within the next five-year cycle, which created a very significant increase in our contract requests, and the proposals were denied. We now propose that we can spread those costs over ten years (the next 2

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five-year cycles). While this still results in a contract increase, it is much smaller than that proposed in the past two years.

In reference to the spreadsheet... When the discussion below references specific values or cells in the spreadsheet, the cell reference by column and row is given, e.g., cell b7 has the value 462.

In general, dollar values are shown in \$1,000 (thousands). Not all significant digits are shown in the printout, but are contained within the spreadsheet calculations. Most all values are in current 2023 dollars. As a guide, when subtotals do not flow directly down, arrows indicate where the next dependent cell is.

### **Vehicle Replacement Plan**

The manufacture dates are shown for our trucks and their primary use. We intend to replace each fire truck at about 25 years of age, and the ambulance (#8) at 15 years. The fire trucks will be well worn at 25 years, and as we are experiencing currently with our #3, maintenance parts are getting difficult to obtain. According to the 25 year life expectancy, trucks #3 and #4 are already past due replacement, and #8 ambulance close. Replacement dates and costs for the other trucks are shown for tentative, future 5 year budget cycles. We estimate that the current, full dollar value of our fleet if replaced now would be about \$2.6M (b13). As a benchmark, if we spread that cost over the approximate 25 year life cycle, then we would be paying on loans and/or saving roughly \$104k per year just on vehicles (assuming no interest). In that we are behind in replacing engine #3, we expect to need about \$124k per year for at least the next 5 years to get us back on track (j14). We have purchased used vehicles in the past, and expect to do so again. While this may decrease the initial acquisition cost, such vehicles will require major repair/maintenance more frequently, and need to be replaced well before 25 years of use with us. With all that, we assume that full fleet 25 year replacement costs will still be about the same.

### **Firematic Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)**

Our self-contained breathing apparatus (SCBA) must be replaced within a few years, and a minimum of 13 packs are required based on available seats in firetrucks (per regulations). Similarly, our turnout gear (fire jackets, pants, boots, gloves, helmets) requires replacement and/or equipping new members.

### **Hall and Grounds Projects**

We have several projects to maintain our buildings and grounds, which are used to shelter our equipment, run daily operations, and host events (training, fund raisers, and rentals). In the past, some individuals expressed concern about specific projects, but our fundraising is anticipated to be much greater than those expenses.

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**Operating Expenses**

This includes an average of all of the last five years expenses that were not major capital projects like the ones listed above (e.g., purchase of our new #1 a few years ago). The average is used for the future estimate, \$102k per year (b24).

**Fundraisers and Other Income**

The last five years fundraisers and other income averaged \$70k per year (b28).

**Total**

Tallied over the next five years, we expect to need \$1.2M (j34) in 2023 dollars. After we subtract our savings, assume a modest 3% inflation, re-sum, and average over the five years again, we obtain a yearly total contract need of \$172k (k46). When the total contract need is split between the two towns at the past ratio, this results in about \$113k (d52) for the Town of Java, and \$59k (d53) for the Town of Sheldon.

**Assessments**

In 2023, Java tax payers were assessed \$96.02 per \$100,000 (b59), which would increase about \$13 to \$108.81 (c59). Similarly, Sheldon tax payers were assessed \$ 107.38 per \$100,000 (b60), which would increase about \$14 to \$121.68 (c60).

We are happy to provide more details and look forward to your questions.

Respectfully, Board of Directors Strykersville Volunteer Fire Co., Inc.

**Open Discussion:**

In addition to the topics reviewed in the letter above. Below are highlights of the open discussion with the Town Boards and the Fire Company:

- Ms. Reisdorf welcomed everyone and expressed that we are all here with the safety and well-being of our community in mind. Ms. Reisdorf stated that the fire company requests a five-year contract
- Supervisor McCormick expressed her appreciation that we are beginning this process early. She stated that she thinks the County as a whole is very lucky and blessed to have the volunteers we do and expressed her gratefulness to those present. She thanked the department for their diligence in putting together the spreadsheet.
- Councilman Dave George asked if the fire department's savings account could be put in a higher yield account. The fire department will look into that possibility.
- Supervisor McCormick asked: Are used trucks an option? Mr. Hope responds that if they buy used it will need to be replaced sooner. Bill Streicher replies that pricing on

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trucks is very volatile and it is hard to get good used vehicles, specifically having issues getting chassis'.

- Councilman Doug George commented that this is a better request than last time
- Councilman Vince Kirsch stated that we need to have the facts to share with our residents noting that we felt the heat from residents last time
- Mr. Streicher noted that the department is looking at 25 years and planning for the long term. Planning today will alleviate heartache later. Good business practice is to look toward the future. Councilman Armbrust asked about depreciation of old trucks to which Mr. Streicher replied that the value of an old truck is diminished due to the fact that you can't find parts. Mr. Streicher noted that the fire department runs a tight ship.
- Supervisor Becker noted: the Perry Fire Department sold an old tanker to a maple syrup producer. He also stated that equipment that may not be useful to another fire department may be useful for other purposes such as the case with the maple syrup farm.
- Supervisor Becker noted that a \$14.30/per \$100,000.00 assessed value increase is not something he thinks people will complain about
- Councilman Russ Reisdorf asked about call volumes. Bill Streicher replied that calls are holding steady and we are right where we were last year. Chief Eric Kirsch replied that calls are approximately 240/year.

**Adjournment**

At 8:05 p.m. a motion was made by Supervisor McCormick and seconded by Supervisor Becker to adjourn the June 27<sup>th</sup> special meeting.

Ayes: (4) Becker, Kirsch, Meyer, Armbrust Nays: (0) Absent: (1) Fontaine Motion Carried.  
Ayes: (4) McCormick, Doug George, Dave George, Reisdorf Nays: (0) Absent: (1) Karen George Motion Carried.