

To the taxpayers of the Village of Odessa,

The Village of Odessa and the Odessa Fire Department are in the process of purchasing a pumper/rescue fire truck. The Village board has elected to hold a permissive referendum soon requiring Village residents to vote to approve this purchase. I would like to provide some essential details to the taxpayers to allow them to make an informed vote regarding this purchase. Here are some points to consider:

- 1.) The Odessa Fire Department has had an apparatus replacement plan in place for over 20 years. This plan allows for timely replacement of apparatus (abiding by N.F.P.A. recommendations) in a staggered timeframe as to allow for the financial saving and planning needed for financing of these purchases. The two rescue pumpers in our fleet are the costliest of all the fire apparatus we have and this equipment must perform flawlessly when their services are needed.
- 2.) The Odessa Fire Department has money in the capital equipment reserve account to offset approximately 1/4 of the cost of this purchase due to good financial management of the budget by the Fire Chief.
- 3.) The remainder of the money that will be spent to purchase this truck will be bonded and the payments will be made from the existing budget as to allow for **no tax increase** due to this purchase. Existing equipment used on the current pumper will be transferred to the new truck as to allow some savings to the taxpayers as we will not have to purchase new equipment.
- 4.) The officers of the Odessa Fire Department have designed this new truck with the following safety considerations in mind:
 - a. New options for fire suppression including foam capability and a larger pump as to allow more water flow which gives us more firefighting options. This will potentially lower our I.S.O. insurance rating which in turn should save taxpayers money on their fire insurance.
 - b. All essential equipment mounted and/or built will be able to be accessed from ground level as to prevent firefighters from climbing on the apparatus and preventing firefighter injuries.
 - c. Fire suppression equipment will be built to be operated by a minimal number of firefighters due to short staffing especially during daytime operations.
 - d. Cab reinforcements will be built to specifically withstand rollover and collision accidents.
 - e. Installation of lighting equipment on the truck will allow for safe operations during night time operations.

Since 1910 the Odessa Fire Department has had a long tradition of providing quality fire protection to the Village of Odessa and the neighboring municipalities we contract with utilizing an entirely volunteer department. In the past the Village has provided us with top notch equipment to be able to do this. All that we are now asking is that the taxpayers continue to provide us with safe and reliable fire equipment which we can utilize to protect our residents in times of emergency. Our residents and our firefighter's lives depend on it!