

Cyndie Martel

From: Olivier Bouan <olivier@bouan.net>
Sent: Tuesday, March 4, 2025 12:32 AM
To: CouncilAll
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Save the Ross Fire Station

Dear Ross Town Council,

I'm writing to request that you do everything in your power to save Ross's Fire Department. It's crucial to our safety, and a significant part of the property value premium that Ross commands and that we have invested in. I'm willing to contribute, along with other Ross residents, to the additional costs required to maintain the fire station. I expect the town council will hear the will of the voters (which may, yes, have evolved from the past), and will pay attention to each councilmember's votes and actions on this subject moving forward.

My wife and I bought a Ross home last year to live next door to my in-laws. It nearly fell through, because home insurance was so difficult to obtain. When we found insurance, we felt blessed despite the high cost. We now live in fear of losing insurance at any time.

This home is our dream home, and living in Ross next to our children's grandparents will be a dream come true. We've invested our life savings in the home and it's now of utmost importance that we protect that investment from potentially devastating wildfires. The cost of maintaining the fire department will easily be recuperated in insurance coverage availability and cost, property values, and the reduced risk of having our home burn down.

I'm in support of any and all creative solutions to maintain a fire department presence in Ross. Continuing with RVFD, supporting our own, joining with Kentfield, etc. I'd love to see us get creative, or even innovative, about both the service we set up and how we fund it. For example:

- Could we develop additional housing at Civic Center to fund fire services while meeting our state mandates?
- Could we tailor our fire department with the most effective material and rolling stock (e.g. smaller, faster vehicles?)?
- Could we incentivize fire-safe home practices by offering discounts to Fire Department contributions for Ross residents who take recommended defensive steps to contribute to town-wide protection against wildfires? Or fast-track planning approvals and permits for home improvements that harden homes?

I trust you all will have great ideas to pursue and will help resolve this issue for the good of all of Ross. You can count on whatever support I can contribute.

Many thanks,
Olivier Bouan
Homeowner at 1 Hill Road