

Cyndie Martel

From: Elizabeth Robbins
Sent: Friday, March 7, 2025 4:16 PM
To: Cyndie Martel
Subject: Fwd: [EXTERNAL] Letter re: closure of Ross Fire Dept
Attachments: KK letter re- Town of Ross Fire Dept Closure.docx

Another letter about the fire station.

Begin forwarded message:

From: Kim Kieckhefer <kimkieckhefer@gmail.com>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Letter re: closure of Ross Fire Dept
Date: February 7, 2025 at 12:13:33 PM PST
To: "C. William Kircher" <cwkircher@townofrossca.gov>, Julie McMillan <jmcmillan@townofrossca.gov>, Elizabeth Robbins <erobbins@townofrossca.gov>, Teri Dowling <tdowling@townofrossca.gov>, Mathew Salter <msalter@townofrossca.gov>, "konakelley25@gmail.com" <konakelley25@gmail.com>
Cc: Jeff Koblick <jeffkoblick@icloud.com>, Michael and Marcia Skall <marcia@marciaskall.com>

Council Members,

Please see my attached letter regarding my concerns around the closure of the Ross Fire Department.

As always, thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,
Kim Kieckhefer
39 Shady Lane
415-269-5573 c.

February 7, 2025

Dear Ross Town Council,

First and foremost, thank you for your service. I am enormously grateful for your time and commitment to our beautiful Town of Ross.

My husband and I have been residents since 1988, and I remember some of the many compelling reasons to move here included the Town was incorporated allowing for greater autonomy, had its own Fire and Emergency Services, and prioritized its school.

Admittedly, I am late in acknowledging our current predicament with our firehouse facing closure in July of 2025 – this summer. And while I will not claim to know or understand all the issues, I have enormous concern that we will no longer have a fire truck in our Town and face possible extended response times for emergency services given the wider net of responsibilities on medical responders to include San Anselmo, Fairfax and Sleepy Hollow.

I understand we joined forces with RVFD in 2010 and that there was a large review regarding the viability of our firehouse in late 2020/early 2021. From what I have learned, we received inflated bids to update our firehouse, paramedic ambulance, and administrative facilities as well as false assurances that our services/response times would not be compromised. Those two primary reasons among others led to an approval to close our firehouse this coming summer 2025.

Considering the fires in Los Angeles, losing a firetruck is a tremendous risk to our Town as well as the other municipalities within the district. Why would we proceed with this plan knowing the devastation that could occur? Additionally, I know past studies showed that Ross had little to no structure fires historically, but our Town has become denser because of affordable housing/ADU pressures from the state of California. Structures are now closer than ever (4' from property lines). This was not the case when the decision was made in 2021.

I understand that the Fire Board denied our request to delay the closure of our station for another year in January. I am asking the Town of Ross Council to please explore any possible ways to keep our fire station open. Given all that we know now, it is in the best interest of all constituencies both within Ross and adjacent to Ross to have the maximum firetrucks and personnel. There must be a better solution for our residents and neighboring towns.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Kieckhefer