

March 13th, 2025

Dear Council Members:

My name is Mike Rosenbaum and I have lived at 14 Madrona Ave since 1987 (not yet a long time Ross Resident). Our home is 0.4 miles from Ross Town Hall (this fact will be important later) I and I walked to this Council Meeting tonight in 7.5 minutes.

I rise up to support a fully staffed Paramedic Bay at Station 18 in the Town of Ross Civic Complex. I do not support the need for a fully staffed Fire Department, and all its incumbent equipment stationed in Ross.

I object to the unilateral email which I received from Councilman Salter on March 5th. Sir, the Town Council should speak to the Community in one voice. As the late Sen Moynihan said, "Everyone is entitled to his opinion, but not his own set of facts". The Town of Ross uses its Town Manager and Staff to inform the Council of the facts and history on the issues which the Council takes action upon. Councilman Salter, as your mind was made up and your opinion broadly communicated well before the Town Manager wrote her report last Friday, there is nothing I can say during my public comments that will change your mind. I worry for the future when a single council member might use his/her position and email the Citizens of Ross to argue against a future parcel tax, home remodel or any other upcoming matter that they take issue with. So to the other four Council members, I offer my following comments for your consideration.

### Fire (RVFD) Station 18:

According to CityGate Associates Nov 19th 2023, page 3 Exec Summary

The overall longer-than-desired first-due unit travel times **are not the result of a lack of fire stations.**

**They are the result of the non-grid street network design, simultaneous incidents at peak hours of the day, and traffic congestion.**

- San Anselmo Station 19 is 0.6 miles from Ross Town line
- Kentfield Fire is 0.3 miles from Ross Town line (my home is 0.4 miles away from Ross FD)
- Marin County now has a Single unified Dispatch Command Center (Marin IJ 2025)
- Councilman Salter's claim of an additional 2 minutes in Fire response time is from data taken Jan 2017 to Dec 2018 and does not address or factor the modernization in dispatch time over the past 7 years.
- Regarding Insurance most of the homes in Ross are PPC ISO Class 2 whose factors are:
  - Closer than 5 miles from a Fire Station
  - 1,000 ft from a fire hydrant

- In a Fire a delay of 2 minutes may not greatly impact the overall damage done to a residence
- Since 1982, Belvedere has not had a Fire Station or an ambulance (Google Search)

### Ambulance/Medical (RVPA) Medic 18:

Cityscape Report Nov 2024 page 16 Exec Summary

Response times are in compliance **with best practices for a suburban set of communities that are dispersed across a topography that is difficult to serve.**

At peak hours of the day, the capacity of the two ambulances is strained, and **an improved backup system should be designed. [ this issue is being addressed by the RVPA] Leave Medic 18 in the Town of Ross as it is economically and operationally well positioned in that location....**

- Paramedics have higher level of medical training than EMTs
- Medic 18 has two Paramedics on its Ambulance, and I feel this is better than two EMTs on a Fire Truck for EMS. But I will defer to Dr Robbins to opine if Paramedics or EMTs are preferred when it comes to Cardiac Arrest, Stroke or other Code Blue event.
- RVFD will staff 3 personnel on its rigs only when Ross repositions its fire personnel from Station 18. This 33% increase to staffing makes EMS responses more efficient and safer, as two trained first responders can attend to an individual in a medical crisis.
- In 2023 Medic 18 responded to 252 incidents (for those of you who are math challenged that is less than 70% during the year)
- As stated before, RVPA is developing increased capacity in the eastern region of the RVPA

### Funding:

- In 2021 a new Ross Fire Station was projected to cost in excess of \$14mm just to build. This estimate did not consider the additional costs to acquire equipment and personnel to staff an independent Ross FD
- In the 2021 online survey, only 35% of Residents would support an additional bond payment of (\$520 per million per year) for a new fire station. That is \$1,560 for a \$3mm home in Ross
- Five years later, how will the Council convince some 30% of Ross Residents to change their opinion in an election which requires 66% approval for a parcel tax?
- In 2021 only \$350k was secured in pledges to build a new Fire Station.
- Ross's Master Plan dated June 2023 page 8 Exec Summary for our own Civic Center provided overall cost estimate of \$22-24mm and includes line items for updating/upgrading
  - Ross PD \$3.4mm
  - RVPA \$1.67mm
  - There was no line item for Ross FD
- There are 836 parcels in the TOR. Current Pub Safety Parcel tax = \$1,229. New Ross FD would increase a parcel tax to approx \$3,700 just in annual operating cost, and this does not include funding or parcel tax for the construction of a new fire station.

- I have not seen/heard any new Ross Residents willing to write a million dollar check for “naming rights” for a new station. In the words of Jerry McGurie Council Salter “show me the money”

Since 2019, the Town of Ross has been studying the issue of Fire and Emergency Services. In 2025, I think it is imperative that we stop this current paralysis by analysis, and begin construction of an enhanced Civic Center in our Town which offers the appropriate level of emergency services to our Community and maintains our property values.

Thank you for listening  
Michael Rosenbaum