

## Cyndie Martel

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**From:** Blanche Virk <blanchevirk@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 26, 2025 4:25 PM  
**To:** CouncilAll  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Replacing our Firehouse

February 26, 2025

Dear Ross Town Council Members,

Thank you so much to Councilor Dr. Elizabeth Robbins for inviting Ross community members to the February Ross Property Owners Association meeting to discuss reopening the discussion of our firehouse replacement. Thank you also to Mayor Kircher for speaking to us that evening.

My husband and I have been grateful Ross residents since 1985 (almost 40 years). Our four children went to Ross School and now as adults they continue to return with their children to enjoy the comfort of our family home and the beauty and assets of our environment.

At the meeting, listening to community members who have had emergencies in which quick response time was of the essence, it became clear that it is essential to have our own fire and emergency services. With Ross' older population, heart issues, strokes, and falls may increase – not to mention an immediate response time needed should a wildfire occur. As discussed at the meeting, if neighboring towns are using these services at the same time of an emergency in Ross, we may not receive a quick enough response! The loss of our fire department and slower response time in this wooded community could cause loss of our fire insurance. Ross residents need to be informed of this.

It is a source of pride that Ross has its own school district, own superintendent, own post office, and schools in which our children can be educated from pre-K through eighth grade and even high school if Branson is the option.

Our town was able to rebuild our K-8 school and our post office with architecturally significant buildings. Considering the recent catastrophic fires in California, I feel we are motivated and have it in us to agree to replace our fire house with a practical and functional building, keeping the existing architectural façade which unifies it to the Town Hall, post office and the school.

It is shocking that our firehouse has fallen into such a lack of repair! Until that meeting, I did not realize that our firemen are living in trailers behind the firehouse! I would like to tour the firehouse to see this with my own eyes! Growing up in San Francisco and Marin, as second graders, we were taught that when firemen were not fighting fires, they were maintaining their firehouse and cooking their meals. Many of us in Ross have very old houses but we continue to

repair and maintain them so that they are comfortable. This should have been the case with the fire house. But, since it was not, we need to get in there and fix it!

We are willing to help with this top priority and crucial project and we would support a bond for it.

Sincerely,  
Singh and Blanche Virk