



Staff Report

Date: June 14, 2018

To: Mayor Robbins and Council Members

From: Joe Chinn, Town Manager

Subject: Calling for Election for Renewal of the Ross Valley Paramedic Authority (RVPA) Four Year Tax for 2019-2023

Recommendation

Town Council adoption of Resolution No. 2060 calling for a special municipal election for renewal of the Ross Valley Paramedic Authority (RVPA) Four Year tax for 2019-2023, and requesting the Marin County Board of Supervisors to consolidate with the General Election on that date, and requesting election services of the County Elections Department. Also, staff requests the Council, should it agree to support renewal of the parcel tax, to decide on the proposed ballot argument language and who should sign the argument (i.e. Mayor, Council members, community members).

Background and discussion

The RVPA is an 8-member joint powers authority (JPA) established in 1982 for the purpose of delivering Fire Department paramedic services in the Ross Valley region. The primary funding mechanism for the RVPA is a property tax. Each taxable residential unit is taxed along with every 1,500 square feet of non-residential structure. This taxation-funding source has been in place since the inception of the RVPA. It financially supports a significant portion of the approximately \$2.3 million annual budget.

Every four years, the citizens who reside within the member communities of the RVPA service area vote to fund the tax for a four-year period. The current tax expires June 30, 2019. In order to maintain this revenue stream, each JPA member agency must place the matter on the November 2018 ballot. The purpose of this report and attached resolution is intended to fulfill the member agency's obligation to place this matter on the November 2018 ballot.

The 8-member communities of the RVPA consist of:

- Corte Madera*
- Kentfield
- San Anselmo
- Fairfax
- Larkspur
- Ross
- Sleepy Hollow
- Unincorporated areas (CSA 27) in the Ross Valley area

** Corte Madera is a sub-contractor of the RVPA and sets tax rates that are separate from the other member agency areas.*

The RVPA JPA is one of the oldest and most successful regional partnerships in Marin County. The JPA was established in 1982 as a way to share costs among the member agencies in order to provide Fire Department based paramedic first response and ambulance transport services to the communities in the Ross Valley. Since its launch, the JPA has evolved in order to continually provide exceptional levels of advanced life support care to our citizens.

It is important to note that Fire Department based paramedic response holds service to our communities and patient care as our foremost objectives. The seamless combination of Fire Department paramedic engine companies and ambulance units ensures for rapid, seamless, and highly professional levels of care.

In November 2014, the RVPA proposed and the voters in all member agencies (excluding Corte Madera*) approved the current tax that begins at \$57 plus a 50-cent administrative fee paid to the county, and incrementally increases each year by \$6. In the fourth year (2018-19), the tax will top out at \$75 plus the 50-cent administrative fee that is paid to the county tax collector.

For the next four years, the RVPA Board of Directors has approved a tax rate containing \$4 annual increases as follows:

2019-20	\$79.50
2020-21	\$83.50
2021-22	\$87.50
2022-23	\$91.50

Annually, each member agency confirms the tax. At this time, the RVPA and staff from member agencies assess the financial condition of the RVPA and then make a recommendation on the rate for the next one-year period. If the financial condition of the paramedic program is stable, the JPA and member agencies can maintain the tax at its present level and defer the annual increase approved by the voters. This has been done in the past. Thus, while voters approve annual incremental increases, the JPA and member agencies can hold the tax at a lower level.

The RVPA Board has approved the following ballot language and ballot argument for use by the member agencies:

Ballot Language

“Shall the measure continuing the special tax for paramedic services for four years in the amount of \$79.50 in the first year and increasing \$4 annually to a maximum of \$91.50 per taxable living unit, or per 1,500 square feet of structure on a developed parcel in non-residential use, which will annually raise approximately \$81,500 each year, and increasing the appropriations limit by the amount of said tax be adopted?”

Ballot Argument

See attached sample copy.

Fiscal, resource and timeline impacts

There could be financial and service level impacts if the tax does not pass as this tax is used to support paramedic emergency services in Ross.

Alternative actions

None recommended.

Environmental review (if applicable)

N/A

Attachments

1. Resolution No. 2060 & Exhibit A
2. Ballot Argument
3. RVPA Proposed Budget

ATTACHMENT 1

TOWN OF ROSS

RESOLUTION NO. 2060

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF ROSS CALLING A SPECIAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION TO BE HELD IN ITS JURISDICTION ON NOVEMBER 6, 2018 FOR THE PURPOSE OF SUBMITTING TO THE VOTERS A MEASURE AUTHORIZING THE CONTINUATION OF A SPECIAL TAX FOR PARAMEDIC SERVICES; REQUESTING THE MARIN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TO CONSOLIDATE WITH THE GENERAL ELECTION CONDUCTED ON THAT DATE; AND REQUESTING ELECTION SERVICES OF THE COUNTY ELECTIONS DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, on November 4, 2014, the voters of the Town of Ross approved a special tax for the funding of paramedic services through the Ross Valley Paramedic Authority; and

WHEREAS, the special tax is scheduled to expire on June 30, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council desires to submit to the voters a measure authorizing the continuation of the special tax for the purpose of funding paramedic services provided by the Ross Valley Paramedic Authority; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council desires to hold a special municipal election to be consolidated with the statewide general election scheduled to be held on November 6, 2018; and

WHEREAS, at that election there shall be submitted to the qualified voters of the Town, the following question:

“Shall the measure continuing the special tax for paramedic services for four years in the amount of \$79.50 in the first year and increasing \$4 annually to a maximum of \$91.50 per taxable living unit, or per 1,500 square feet of structure on a developed parcel in non-residential use, which will annually raise approximately \$81,500 each year, and increasing the appropriations limit by the amount of said tax be adopted?”

WHEREAS, if this measure receives approval by two-thirds of the voters voting thereon, the ordinance in the form attached hereto as Exhibit “A” shall be adopted; and

WHEREAS, the Town Clerk shall fix and determine a reasonable date prior to the election, after which no arguments for or against the question may be submitted; and shall cause arguments for or against the question to be printed and enclosed with the sample ballot approved by the California Elections Code; and

WHEREAS, rebuttal arguments shall be received in connection with the election on this proposition; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 10002 of the Elections Code, the Town Council may request the Board of Supervisors to permit the County Elections Department to render specified services to the Town relating to the conduct of the election on a reimbursable basis; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Council of the Town of Ross as follows:

1. That a special municipal election is hereby called to be held on November 6, 2018, at which election the ballot question set forth above shall be determined by the voters. The text of the proposed ordinance to be submitted to the voters is attached hereto as Exhibit "A" and incorporated herein by reference; and
2. That the Board of Supervisors of the County of Marin is hereby requested to consolidate said election with the general election to be conducted on the same day; and
3. That the Town Council hereby acknowledges that the consolidated election will be held and conducted in the manner prescribed in Section 10418 of the California Elections Code; and
4. That the Board of Supervisors of the County of Marin is hereby requested to authorize the County Elections Department to render the following specified services for the Town of Ross relating to the conduct of the election to be held on November 6, 2018: Preparation of voter indexes; voter counting by precinct; verification of signatures; drayage and rental of polling places; printing of measures and arguments; printing of sample and official ballots; appointment and notification of election officers; mailing of sample ballots and polling place notification; provision of precinct supplies; training of precinct workers; processing of absentee ballots; central counting; canvass of votes cast; and
5. The Town Clerk is hereby ordered and directed to file a copy of this resolution with the Board of Supervisors of the County of Marin.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Ross on the 14th day of June, 2018, by the following vote: ..

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

Elizabeth Robbins, Mayor

ATTEST:

Linda Lopez, Town Clerk

EXHIBIT A
TOWN OF ROSS

ORDINANCE NO. 655
AN ORDINANCE OF THE TOWN OF ROSS, CALIFORNIA,
AMENDING CHAPTER 3.30 OF THE ROSS MUNICIPAL CODE TO CONTINUE
THE LEVY OF A SPECIAL TAX TO FINANCE PARAMEDIC SERVICES

THE PEOPLE OF THE TOWN OF ROSS, CALIFORNIA DO HEREBY ORDAIN AS
FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Chapter 3.30.020 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Section 3.30.020 Special Tax Imposed.

A special tax for the purpose specified in Section 3.30.010 of this chapter shall be imposed on all developed parcels of real property in the Town of Ross for each fiscal year, commencing with fiscal year 2019-2020, as follows:

- a. Residential Uses: \$79.50 per dwelling unit on a parcel for fiscal year 2019-20. Beginning with fiscal year 2020-21, the Town Council may approve an annual increase to said amount not to exceed \$4.00 annually to a maximum of \$91.50 for fiscal year 2022-23. For the purposes of this chapter, a dwelling unit means a building designed for or occupied by one family, including a dwelling unit under construction. A residential second unit duly registered with the Town of Ross, or any structure accessory to the primary dwelling, which is used for occupancy by family members, occasional guests, or servants, is not a dwelling unit for the purposes of this chapter.
- b. Non-Residential Uses: \$79.50 per 1,500 square feet of structure on the parcel for fiscal year 2019-20. Beginning with fiscal year 2020-21, the Town Council may approve an annual increase to said amount not to exceed \$4.00 annually to a maximum of \$91.50 for fiscal year 2022-23.

The records of the Marin County Assessor as of March 1st of each year shall determine the use and improvement of each parcel for the calculation of the special tax applicable to that parcel in the following fiscal year.

For the purposes of this chapter, the term “parcel” shall mean a parcel of real property having a separate assessor’s parcel number as shown on the last equalized assessment roll of Marin County.”

Section 2. Chapter 3.30.080 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Section 3.30.080 Termination of Provisions.

This chapter shall be null and void as of twelve o’clock midnight, June 30, 2023, and shall have no force and effect whatsoever after said time and date. Notwithstanding the

previous sentence, section 3.30.050, relating to the collection and enforcement of liens or obligations for the special tax previously levied hereunder, shall continue in effect until such time as the collection and enforcement procedures have been completed.”

Section 3. The appropriations limit of the Town of Ross established under Article XIII B, Section 6 of the California Constitution shall be increased by the proceeds received from the special tax imposed by this ordinance. Any future increases in the appropriations limit shall be approved by a majority vote of the voters voting thereon.

Section 4. If any provision of this ordinance or the application thereof to any person or circumstances is held invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect any other provision or applications, and to this end the provisions of this ordinance are declared to be severable. The Town Council, and the electorate by referendum, do hereby declare that they would have adopted this ordinance and each section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase, part or portion thereof, irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections, subsections, clauses, phrases, parts or portions thereof, be declared invalid or unconstitutional.

Section 5. This ordinance shall be adopted and become effective only if approved by two-thirds of the voters voting thereon, at an election to be held on November 6, 2018.

Section 6. The Mayor is hereby authorized to attest to the adoption of this ordinance by signing where indicated below.

I hereby certify that the foregoing ordinance was PASSED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED by the people of the Town of Ross voting on the 6th day of November, 2018.

By:

P. Beach Kuhl, Mayor

ATTEST:

Linda Lopez, Town Clerk

ATTACHMENT 2

Ballot Argument

Since 1982 the voters of the Ross Valley have continued to approve a special tax to help fund the fire department based paramedic service. You are being asked to again support the tax with modest annual \$4 incremental increases for four years to a maximum rate of \$91.50. The Ross Valley Paramedic Authority is a partnership of eight Ross Valley communities that have combined efforts to deliver this exceptional level of care.

The initial Ross Valley Paramedic Authority tax provided for a single ambulance. The expectation for paramedic care from our citizens has dictated that service levels continue to expand and evolve. Paramedic care is now provided through a system that includes, state of the art fire department paramedic ambulance units and with trained paramedics aboard fire engines so that advanced emergency care can arrive as quickly as possible.

The Ross Valley Paramedic Authority will continue the responsible, transparent approach to managing the costs of our emergency medical response service and adequately provide for the long-term safety of our community.

A Yes Vote will:

- Ensure the existing high level paramedic emergency medical response services
- Continue local control over these tax revenues
- Maintain rapid emergency response

Your tax pays for a significant portion of the paramedic program. Additional funds are collected from insurance companies through third party billing and from billing of non-resident customers. In addition, your tax covers continuing paramedic training, the cost of supplies and equipment and the replacement of ambulance units when needed.

Our goal is to continue to provide state of the art paramedic care in the Ross Valley. We need your vote to continue this vital service. Vote YES on Measure ____.

Signature

Signature

ATTACHMENT 3

Ross Valley Paramedic Authority
Proposed 2018-19 Budget

Account Name	Account Type	2018-19 Total proposed budget
INVESTMENT EARNINGS	Revenue	(2,200.00)
KENTFIELD FIRE DIST	Revenue	(211,834.44)
CITY OF LARKSPUR	Revenue	(568,080.00)
COUNTY SER AREA 27	Revenue	(54,810.00)
TOWN OF FAIRFAX	Revenue	(280,838.88)
TOWN OF ROSS	Revenue	(71,857.80)
SLEEPY HOLLOW FIRE DIST	Revenue	(68,310.00)
SAN ANSELMO	Revenue	(447,120.00)
OTHER REVENUE	Revenue	
TRANSPORT BILLING	Revenue	(796,000.00)
DISPOSITION OF PROPERTY	Revenue	
TRANSFER FROM RESERVES	Revenue	
Total		(2,501,051.12)

Account Name	Account Type	2018-2019 Total Budget
PART TIME	Expense	7,000.00
FINANCIAL & ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES	Expense	47,326.00
ALS BACK UP	Expense	62,500.00
CONSULTANT	Expense	5,000.00
PHYSIO-CONTROL	Expense	9,000.00
TRANSPORT BILLING FEES	Expense	50,000.00
PARCEL TAX TRANSFER TO CM	Expense	8,000.00
LEGAL SERVICES	Expense	12,000.00
COUNTY CONTRACT	Expense	1,513,153.74
CQI PROGRAM	Expense	0
AUTOMOTIVE FUELS	Expense	10,000.00
PRINTED & PHOTOGRAPHIC	Expense	1,000.00
OFFICE SUPPLIES	Expense	200.00
ENGINE MEDIC PROGRAM - RVFD	Expense	236,000
ENGINE MEDIC PROGRAM - LARKSPUR	Expense	137,000
EMS TRAINING/SUPPLY REIMB	Expense	90,000
DISPOSABLE MEDICAL SUPPLIES	Expense	75,000
POSTAGE	Expense	500
MISC	Expense	1,000
AUTOMOTIVE EQUIPMENT REPAIRS	Expense	4,500
INSURANCE/MISC	Expense	4,500
DUES/MEMBERSHIP/SUBSCRIPTION	Expense	0
ADJ TO BAL BUDGET	Expense	0
TAX COLLECTION SERVICE	Expense	8,000
RENT	Expense	30,000
PMTS TO OTHR AGENCIES	Expense	0
OTHER EQUIPMENT/BUILDING	Expense	2,000
EQUIPMENT REPLACEMENT	Expense	75000
OTHER EQUIPMENT	Expense	0
Total		2,388,679.74
(Fav)unfav		(112,371.38)