

SPECIAL MEETING of the ROSS TOWN COUNCIL
THURSDAY, APRIL 3, 2025
Held In-Person and Teleconference via Zoom

1. 9:18 p.m. Commencement.

Mayor Bill Kircher, Jr., Mayor Pro Tem Julie McMillan; Council Members Teri Dowling; Elizabeth Robbins; Mathew Salter; Town Manager Christa Johnson; Town Attorney Ben Stock.

2. Posting of agenda/changes to agenda.

Town Manager Johnson confirmed the agenda was posted according to government requirements.

3. Town Council to provide direction to the Town Manager regarding communication of the presentations and discussion of the March 13, 2025 Town Council agenda item concerning the provision of fire and emergency medical services in Ross.

Town Manager Johnson gave a background of the item placed on the agenda by Mayor Kircher and Mayor Pro Tem McMillan. At the March 13th meeting a majority of the Council did not reach consensus to direct the Town Manager to expend resources to conduct additional research on potential alternatives to the closure of the Ross Fire Station. At the end of the meeting, Mayor Pro Tem McMillan inquired how the Council would communicate what happened during the Council's discussion of Item 9, and this is reflected in the minutes the Council approved earlier in the regular meeting. She had replied that communication would typically occur via the meeting minutes, on the Town website, and the Morning After Newsletter. The Council did not discuss additional communication strategies.

Since then, she has been asked by several members of the community to engage in additional communication regarding the presentations made during that March 13th meeting and requests Council direction on this request.

She said communication thus far since March 13th has been: 1) meeting minutes; 2) posting of the links to the presentation, video of the meeting, and staff report on Town's website; 3) In the Morning After Newsletter published tomorrow, the Mayor's Column includes comments on the Council discussion and Fire Chief Dan Mahoney drafted a column that includes main points from the March 13th presentations by fire officials.

In summary, she asked if the Council would like additional communication for the community regarding the March 13th agenda item and discussions.

Council Member Robbins asked and confirmed with Mayor Pro Tem McMillan that she and Mayor Kircher would like something more detailed such as an FAQ for the website. She and Council Member Dowling then voiced support of a special email to every resident receiving the Morning After Newsletter and recommended that hard copies of it be printed and made available to the public at the Post Office.

Council Member Salter agreed, suggested footnoting where the data is coming from, and to also identify reports issued by Citygate. Mayor Pro Tem McMillan cautioned against reviewing the Town Manager's work product and footnoting every source, as she can refer to the staff report.

Noted as Absent:

Council Member Robbins stated she had to leave early and voiced support of a fact sheet.

Council Member Dowling voiced support of the Mayor and Mayor Pro Tem reviewing the fact sheet.

Council Member Salter disagreed and said he thinks it should be a collaborative document.

Town Manager Johnson stated she could not collaborate with all Council Members unless the Council held a noticed meeting. It would also not be productive if the Council word-smithed the document at the May 8th meeting, and said she would be happy to work with a subcommittee of two Council Members.

Mayor Kircher opened the public comment period.

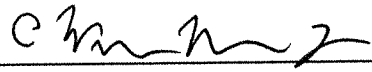
Michael Rosenbaum, 14 Madrona Avenue, read a letter into the record asking that the Council speak in a unified voice, to develop an FAQ document for the Town's website, and to develop a document that gets distributed by the Town to all of the Ross community with the essential facts and factors pertaining to the decision to close the Fire Station. He also asked to address the inaccuracies being promulgated by what appears to be a rogue member of the Council.

Mayor Kircher closed the public comment period and returned discussion to the Council.

Mayor Kircher confirmed the direction is for Mayor Pro Tem McMillan and Council Member Robbins to work with the Town Manager to develop a fact sheet for publication to the community and for posting to the website.

4. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.



C. William Kircher, Jr., Mayor

ATTEST:



Cyndie Martel, Town Clerk