

Dear Mayor McMillan and Fellow Council Members:

Thank you for being such good and conscientious stewards of the Town of Ross' Finances. I see that the Town of Ross (TOR) will have to potentially expend \$85 thousand in unanticipated consultant's fees in order to place the Friends of Ross Firehouse's (FORF's) ballot initiative on the California ballot in June 2026.

I believe that it is only fair to ask any citizen who creates additional expenses for the TOR be asked to reimburse the TOR for those expenses. For example if you want to cut down a tree on your property, you then pay for the services of the Town's arborist. In a similar vein, this afternoon I ask the Town Council to instruct the Town Manager, Ms. Johnson, to make ongoing demands on the FORF organization to pay for any and all costs incurred by the TOR related to its June 2026 ballot initiative within 30 days of a written notice being presented.

FORF "claims" to have raised multiple hundreds of thousands of dollars in their campaign, and as a 501c3 entity will at some point have to make their finances available to the public. Let FORF prove they are good neighbors for all of Ross and not just hoarding their donations so that they can buy legacy RVFD Engine #18 at auction.

In addition, the Town Council needs to demand to review the Fee Proposal from BRW Architects. Then the follow up questions to BRW Architects should be asked: 1) How often and 2) By how much (%) does BRW get additional services on their projects? I suggest that any architectural contract should be reviewed by Ross resident Mr Dan Winey.

I am currently a NO vote on the initiative until FORF can actually back up their plans with agreed contracts which according to an Town wide email blast on Sunday Oct 5th could take an additional 60 to 90 days.

By the way has anyone questioned how FORF was provided access to the Town of Ross' email list? Was the Town of Ross compensated for sharing the emails of all its citizens? My personal identifiable information (PII) was shared with an external organization without my permission and there are laws against that. I think that the Town's attorney should ensure that no violation has occurred.

Thank you for taking the time to listen this afternoon, and I hope that Council Salter provided me the courtesy of not looking at his phone during my public comments.

Michael F. Rosenbaum  
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