

Cyndie Martel

From: Mathew Salter
Sent: Tuesday, January 6, 2026 12:26 PM
To: Cyndie Martel
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL] Closure of Ross Firehouse

Cyndie- please include Gary's letter in the public comment for Thursday's meeting.

Thanks,

Mathew

Mathew Salter
Town of Ross Council

From: Gary Scales <garrettscales@comcast.net>
Sent: Friday, December 19, 2025 4:14 PM
To: CouncilAll <towncouncil@townofrossca.gov>
Cc: Christa Johnson <cjohnson@townofrossca.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Closure of Ross Firehouse

Mayor and Council Members,

From reading the recent article in the Marin Independent Journal, it appears that fire officials report most engine and ambulance responses are now at least two minutes slower than when Station 18 was staffed.

I appreciate that response-time calculations can be subject to differing interpretations, and I am mindful of the old adage that “there are liars, damn liars, and statisticians.” That said, the bottom line is clear: **Ross residents no longer receive the same level of emergency response they did before the firehouse was closed.**

Town leaders now acknowledge that increased response times were anticipated when the Council voted in 2021, choosing to prioritize overall town facility rebuilding and the staffing of RVFA engines in other communities. For various reasons, it is unlikely most residents fully understood the significance of what was at stake at that time. Nor do I believe they would have supported the Council’s action had it been clear that fire and medical services in Ross would be eliminated and significantly reduced.

We now have actual, post-closure metrics demonstrating the impact of that decision. Real-world data exists, and responsive governance calls for evaluating past decisions in light of current evidence.

In summary:

1. The firehouse closure has led to slower emergency response times.
2. Residents have expressed serious concern about these increases.
3. Emergency response times are not merely statistics; they directly affect human life and property,
4. Ross residents should be given the opportunity to define what response-time standards are acceptable for their community.

I hope the January 8th meeting marks the beginning of a thoughtful and deliberate re-evaluation; one grounded in data, transparency, and a shared commitment to public safety.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Scales

Berry Lane, Ross