

Madame Mayor and Members of the Council,

I am here to address my ongoing concerns regarding the Friends of Ross Firehouse (FORF) initiative and the Town's current policy direction.

First, there is a fundamental lack of clarity regarding leadership. We need to know who is driving decisions at FORF. If the Board President's Mr Herbst word is no longer reliable, the Town deserves to know who is actually setting their agenda. We are witnessing a 'tail-wagging-the-dog' scenario where an outside organization appears to dictate policy to the Town of Ross, leading to the rescinding of resolutions that were passed only months ago.

Second, the abrupt cancellation of the Architect RFP—authorized just weeks ago—is deeply troubling. Bypassing an established, competitive process in favor of a no-bid arrangement undermines the integrity of ethical procurement standards of a municipality and raises significant questions about fiscal responsibility.

Third, we are being asked to evaluate CAC's "concept" of a plan without a clear financial strategy. If FORF is confident in their vision, they should be transparent about their funding. I ask that FORF provide specific details on their pledges and financial backing rather than operating in opacity. I suggest the TOR demand Stephanie Demarco produce a validated list of contributors and amounts to the Town Manager and Town Treasurer so that an adjusted parcel tax can be associated with the upcoming ballot initiative. It is time to put up or shut up or admit that the parcel tax will be \$6k in perpetuity.

Finally, I must remind this Council of the Marin Grand Jury Report, which explicitly described the Ross Fire station proposal as 'misguided civic engagement.' By disregarding these findings, the Council is exposing the Town to unnecessary liability. I urge you to consider the long-term risk. The citizens of Ross should not be forced to bear the cost of defending decisions that ignore established guidance.

I call on the Council to maintain the integrity of our existing processes, honor previous commitments, and stop allowing external pressure to dictate policy that risks our fiscal and legal standing."