

Ross Valley Fire Department Board of Directors
STAFF REPORT

For the meeting of January 12, 2022

To: Ross Valley Fire Board

From: Jason Weber, Fire Chief

Subject: Review of Proposed Third Amendment to the Amended and Restated Joint Powers Agreement

RECOMMENDATION

Receive Proposed Third Amendment to the Amended and Restated Joint Powers Agreement – Provide direction to staff prior to circulation of the Third Amendment to the Amended and Restated Joint Powers Agreement

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION

At your December 8, 2021 Staff presented your Board with the proposed JPA changes. Your Board did not have adequate time to digest the changes and requested that Staff return at the January meeting. Staff has not received any proposed changes to what was presented at your December meeting and subsequently is returning to this Board meeting with the no changes to the Third Amendment to the JPA for your consideration.

At your November 10, 2021 Fire Board meeting, your Board reached agreement on a single option related to the Ross Fire Station future. Your Board directed staff to develop a third Amendment to the RVFD Joint Powers Agreement and return with the proposed changes for review prior to circulating with the member agencies for ratification.

Staff worked with the Management Committee and legal counsels from each of the member agencies, including the Ross Valley Fire Department’s legal counsel on the attached documents. The amendments to the JPA are based on your Board’s action related to the policy considerations that were presented as part of the option highlighted below:

Eliminate Engine 18, shift personnel West to other stations
(One less engine; no reduction in personnel)

Policy Considerations for your Board:

- Staff is recommending savings (estimated to reach \$300k annually) in staffing and vehicle replacement (1 less engine) be attributed to Ross as savings

materialize.

- Staff is recommending one-time capital costs associated with interior remodels at the Fairfax Station 21 be covered by the Town of Fairfax (estimated not to exceed \$210,000)
- Staff is recommending that personnel moving West from Station 18 be located at Stations 19 and 21.
- Staff is recommending the lease agreement with the Ross Valley Paramedic Authority (RVPA) for housing a paramedic ambulance and crew (currently \$32k annually payable to RVFD) be redirected to the Town of Ross after Ross completes the construction of a \$2 mil ambulance quarters with an increase to the lease amount of \$50k annually.
- Staff is recommending implementation date of July 1, 2025 if agreement is reached.
- Staff is recommending Ross would share in Station 19 facility costs under proposed formula of incident activity percentage (currently 27%) for capital repairs and building maintenance.
- Staff is recommending Ross cover reasonable hard costs (RVFD attorney fees) associated with this decision and subsequent amendments to the JPA.
- Staff is recommending Labor items be carried out in the form of a “side letter of agreement” which will be drafted at your direction.
- Staff is recommending the Labor Mgmt. Sub-Committee meet regularly (at least quarterly) to address the remaining engine company staffed with two personnel.

SUMMARY:

Upon your Board’s review of the attached amendments to the JPA the document will be circulated to the member agencies for ratification at their respective future Councils and Board meetings.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The receipt of this Staff Report does not have any associated fiscal impact.

Attachments: Third Amendment to the Amended and Restated JPA – Attachment #1
Side Letter with the Ross Valley Firefighters – Attachment #2