

**TOWN OF SAN ANSELMO
STAFF REPORT
January 4, 2012**

For the meeting of January 10, 2012

TO: Town Council

FROM: Roger Meagor, Fire Chief

SUBJECT: Presentation regarding the inclusion of the Town of Ross as a Member of the Ross Valley Fire Department JPA

RECOMMENDATION

That the Town Council receives the presentation and provides comments to staff

BACKGROUND

The Ross Valley Fire Department was formed in July, 1982 when the Towns of Fairfax and San Anselmo merged fire departments through a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA). The Ross Valley Fire Department provides fire protection and other emergency services to Fairfax, San Anselmo, and Sleepy Hollow. Until July 2010, services to Sleepy Hollow were provided through a longstanding contract with the Town of San Anselmo. In July 2010 Sleepy Hollow FPD became a full member of the JPA. Additionally Ross Valley Fire Department currently provides Battalion Chief services to Town of Ross through a contract for service.

DISCUSSION

In early 2011, Ross Fire Chief Tom Vallee and I had several discussions on the feasibility of merging Ross Valley Fire with Ross Fire. In March, Ross Valley Fire Executive Officer Michael Rock, and I met with Ross Town Manager Gary Broad, Ross Councilman Scot Hunter, and Chief Tom Vallee. During the meeting we exchanged information and discussed the feasibility of merging the two agencies. For the next 6 months informal discussions continued while the Town of Ross also explored the possibility of merging with the Kentfield Fire District. In November an ad hoc committee from Ross Valley Fire Department and the Community Protection Committee of the Ross Town Council Ross began formal exploration of expanding the Ross Valley Fire JPA to include the Town of Ross. A second meeting is scheduled for January 9, 2012.

Staff has prepared a PowerPoint presentation to provide the Council and the public with information regarding the history, staffing, and configuration of the current fire service JPA. Additionally the presentation outlines the basic concepts and benefits of an expanded JPA that includes the Town of Ross.