

TOWN OF SAN ANSELMO  
STAFF REPORT  
April 11, 2014

For the meeting of April 22, 2014

TO: Town Council  
FROM: Debra Stutsman, Town Manager  
SUBJECT: ROSS VALLEY PARAMEDIC AUTHORITY TAX ELECTION

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve the attached resolution calling and giving notice of the holding of an election to be held on November 4, 2014, and requesting the Board of Supervisors of the County of Marin to consolidate said election; and authorize the Town Clerk or her duly authorized officers and agency to carry out all the necessary procedures for said election submitting to the voters the question relating to a special tax for paramedic services.

BACKGROUND

The Ross Valley Paramedic Authority (RVPA) is an eight-member joint powers authority (JPA) that includes the communities of Corte Madera, Larkspur, Kentfield, Ross, San Anselmo, Sleepy Hollow, Fairfax and the County unincorporated areas within the Ross Valley region. The RVPA was formed in 1983 to provide emergency medical services and transport to local medical facilities. Ross Valley residents voted to pay a per-unit parcel tax for this service. The initial RVPA tax in 1983 was \$9.50 per living unit and \$9.50 per 1,000 square feet of non-residential space. Currently, the tax is set at \$48.00 plus fifty cents administrative fee charged to the County. The tax for 2014-2015 is \$51 plus fifty cents administrative fee charged to the County.

The RVPA tax is set to conclude on June 30, 2015, thus an election on November 4, 2014 is necessary in order to maintain this service. RVPA Executive Officer Robert Sinnott requests that the member agencies approve a resolution calling for a renewal of the current parcel tax. Each member agency's elected body, as well as the voters, has overwhelmingly supported the approval of this tax measure every four years since 1982.

DISCUSSION

The proposed ballot language is:

**Shall there be a continuation of the four year special tax for paramedic services in the amount of \$57 in the first year and raising the tax \$6 annually to a maximum of \$75 per taxable living unit, or per 1,500 square of structure on a developed parcel in non-residential use, with the appropriations limit increased by the amount of said tax for the next four years?**

The RVPA Board has proposed the tax for the next four years to be set as follows:

2015-16	\$57 per taxable living unit or per 1,500 square of structure on a developed parcel in non-residential use
2016-17	\$63 per taxable living unit or per 1,500 square of structure on a developed parcel in non-residential use
2017-18	\$69 per taxable living unit or per 1,500 square of structure on a developed parcel in non-residential use
2018-19	\$75 per taxable living unit or per 1,500 square of structure on a developed parcel in non-residential use

The RVPA Board has approved both the ballot language and the ballot argument. This is attached for your review. Also attached for your review is the Town Attorney's Impartial Analysis. Each agency must submit the proper materials to the Marin County Elections Office by August 8, 2014.

FISCAL IMPACT

None

Respectfully submitted,



Debra Stutsman  
Town Manager

- c: Janice Przybylski, San Anselmo representative to the Ross Valley Paramedic Authority Board of Directors
- Bob Sinnott, Executive Officer, Ross Valley Paramedic Authority
- Mark Mills, Ross Valley Fire Chief

- Attachment 1: Proposed Resolution
- Attachment 2: Ballot Argument
- Attachment 3: Impartial Analysis

**RESOLUTION NO.**

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SAN ANSELMO CALLING AND GIVING NOTICE OF THE HOLDING OF AN ELECTION ON NOVEMBER 4, 2014 AND REQUESTING THE MARIN COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TO CONSOLIDATE SAID ELECTION; AND AUTHORIZING THE TOWN CLERK OR HER DULY AUTHORIZED OFFICERS AND AGENCY TO CARRY OUT ALL THE NECESSARY PROCEDURES FOR SAID ELECTION SUBMITTING TO THE VOTERS THE QUESTION RELATING TO A SPECIAL TAX FOR PARAMEDIC SERVICES**

**Whereas**, the Town of San Anselmo is considering continuing the special tax for paramedic services in the Town; and

**Whereas**, under the provisions of the laws relating to general law cities in the State of California, an election shall be held on November 4, 2014 at which the Town Council desires to submit to the voters a question relating to a special tax for paramedic services; and

**Whereas**, it is desirable that the election be consolidated with the statewide election to be held on the same date and that within the Town, the precincts, polling places, and election officers of the two elections to be the same; and

**Whereas**, it is desirable that the Marin County Elections Department canvass the returns of the General Election and that the election be handled in all respects as if there were only one election.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SAN ANSELMO, CALIFORNIA, DOES RESOLVE, DECLARE, DETERMINE, AND ORDER AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. That pursuant to the requirements of the laws of the State of California relating to General Law Cities, there is called and ordered to be held in the Town of San Anselmo, California, an election on Tuesday, November 4, 2014.

Section 2. That pursuant to the requirements of Section 10403 of the California Elections Code, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Marin is hereby requested to consent and agree to the consolidation of said election.

Section 3. That the Town Council hereby acknowledges that the consolidated election will be held and conducted in the manner prescribed in Section 10418.

Section 4. That the Town Council, pursuant to its rights and authority, does order submitted to the voters at the November 4, 2014 election the following question:

The people of the Town of San Anselmo do ordain as follows:

**Shall there be a continuation of the four year special tax for paramedic services in the amount of \$57 in the first year and raising the tax \$6 annually to a maximum of \$75 per taxable living unit, or per 1,500 square of structure on a developed parcel in non-residential use, with the appropriations limit increased by the amount of said tax for the next four years?**

Section 5. Pursuant to Elections Code section 9280, the Town Clerk shall transmit a copy of the measure to the Town Attorney who shall prepare an impartial analysis of the measure in accordance with said Section 9280. Arguments for and against said measure may be filed in accordance with applicable provisions of the law. Pursuant to Section 9285 of the Elections Code of the State of California, (the provisions of which are hereby adopted), when the clerk has selected the arguments for and against the measure which will be printed and distributed to the voters, the clerk shall send copies of the argument in favor of the measure to the authors of the argument against, and copies of the argument against to the authors of the argument in favor. The rebuttal arguments shall be filed with the Town Clerk not more than 10 days after the final date for filing direct arguments. Rebuttal arguments shall be printed in the same manner as the direct arguments. Each rebuttal argument shall immediately follow the direct argument which it seeks to rebut. The text of the measure shall be printed on the ballot in the voter information portion of the sample ballot.

Section 6. That the Marin County Elections Department is authorized to canvass the returns of said election. The election shall be held in all respects as if there were only one election, and only one form of ballot shall be used.

Section 7. That the Board of Supervisors is requested to issue instructions to the Marin County Elections Department to take any and all steps necessary for the holding of the consolidated election.

Section 8. That the Town Clerk is hereby directed to file a certified copy of this resolution with the Board of Supervisors and the Marin County Elections Department.

Section 9. That the polls for the election shall be open at 7:00 a.m. on November 4, 2014 and shall remain open continuously from that time until 8:00 p.m. of the same day, when the polls shall be closed, except as provided in Section 14401 of the Elections Code of the State of California.

Section 10. That in all particulars not recited in this resolution, the election shall be held and conducted as provided by law for holding municipal elections.

Section 11. That notice of the time and place of holding the election is given and Town Clerk is authorized, instructed, and directed to give further or additional notice of the election, in time, form, and manner as required by law.

Section 12. That the Town Clerk shall certify to the passage and adoption of this Resolution and enter it into the book of original resolutions.

Section 13. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

I, the undersigned hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true, and complete copy of a resolution duly passed and adopted by the Council of the Town of San Anselmo at a regular meeting thereof held on the 22nd day of April 2014, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tom McInerney, Mayor

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Joanne Kessel for  
Barbara Chambers, Town Clerk

## **Special Tax for Paramedic Services November 4, 2014 Ballot**

### Ballot Argument

Since 1982 the voters of the Ross Valley have continued to approve a special tax to help fund the fire department based paramedic service. You are being asked to again support the tax with modest annual \$6 incremental increases for four years to a maximum rate of \$75. The Ross Valley Paramedic Authority is a partnership of 8 Ross Valley communities that have combined efforts to deliver this exceptional level of care.

The initial Ross Valley Paramedic Authority tax provided for a single ambulance. The expectation for paramedic care from our citizens has dictated that service levels continue to expand and evolve. Paramedic care is now provided through a system that includes three, state of the art fire department paramedic ambulance units and with trained paramedics aboard fire engines so that advanced emergency care can arrive as quickly as possible.

The Ross Valley Paramedic Authority will continue the responsible, transparent approach to managing the costs of our emergency medical response service and adequately provide for the long-term safety of our community.

#### A Yes Vote Will:

- Ensure the existing high level paramedic emergency medical response services
- Continue local control over these tax revenues
- Maintain rapid emergency response times

Your tax pays for a significant portion of the paramedic program. Additional funds are collected from insurance companies through third party billing and from billing of non-resident customers. In addition, your tax covers continuing paramedic training, the cost of supplies and equipment and the replacement of ambulance units when needed.

Our goal is to continue to provide state of the art paramedic care in the Ross Valley. We need your vote to continue this vital service. Vote YES on Measure \_\_\_\_\_.

**Impartial Analysis**  
**Special Tax for Paramedic Services**

If this measure is approved by a two-thirds (2/3) vote, the special tax for paramedic services administered by the Ross Valley Paramedic Authority, will be continued for four more years. The tax for residential units will be \$57.00 per taxable living unit in the first year and increasing thereafter by \$6.00 per year with a maximum of \$75.00 per taxable living unit. The tax for non-residential parcels will be \$57.00 per 1,500 square feet of structure for each developed parcel in non-residential use in the first year, increasing thereafter by \$6.00 per year.

The proposed special tax for paramedic services will be collected in addition to fees for transportation to the hospital charged to insurance providers. The applicable appropriations limit pursuant to Article XIII B of the California Constitution will be increased in an amount equal to the proceeds of the special tax.

If the measure is not approved, the tax will expire on June 30, 2015.