



THE MORNING AFTER

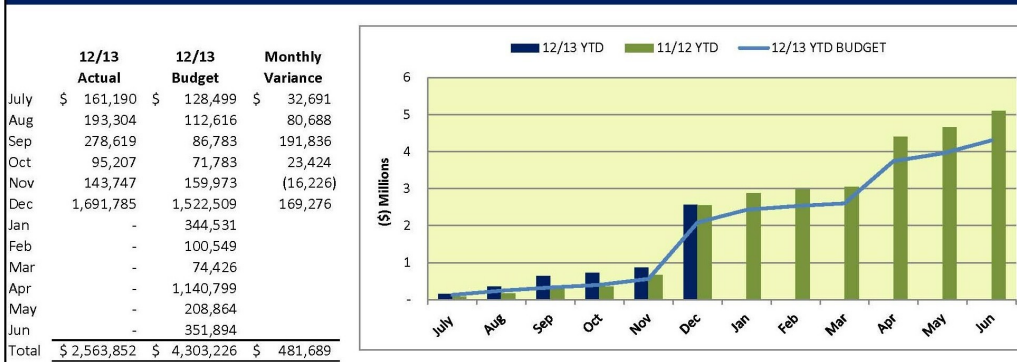
Highlights from the
Ross Town Council Meeting
of February 14, 2013

Town of Ross

Volume 7, Issue 2
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FY 2013 Q2 6-Month Budget Review

GENERAL FUND REVENUES VS BUDGET (excluding side fund payoff) Graph #1



Revenues exceed budgeted amounts primarily because: construction penalties +\$219K, building and planning related revenue +\$58K, Sale of parcel +\$150K, and private contributions +\$52K. Investment income is under budget by \$33K.

Town Manager Rob Braulik gave a report to the Town Council that included financial results for the first six months of Fiscal Year 13 (July 1, 2012 to June 30th 2013). The financial picture which includes six months of data was reported as positive overall with revenues higher than anticipated and expenditures lower than projected. This means the trends seen with the 2013, Q1 financial report provided last quarter continued into

this current quarter and for the six-month reporting period. General fund revenues are meeting projections for the first half of the year on balance. Certain revenues are exceeding projections (e.g., planning application fees and construction penalties) and others are falling short (e.g., investment income).

Revenues are tracking \$482K higher than projected and expenses \$128K less for a positive overall variance of \$610K.

The Town continues to use reserves to fund FY13 operation's to balance the structural shortfall between Town revenues and expenditures.

Council Appoints New ADR Members

The Council appointed two new members (Chris Neumann and Eric Soifer) to the Advisory Design Review Group and reappointed current members Peter Nelson, Dan Winey and (alternate) Mark Kruttschnitt for another term. The terms of design professionals Jim Kemp and Mark Fritts will be open for appointment in February 2014. ADR members serve a two-year term and may serve multiple terms.

The Advisory Design Review Group is a volunteer committee that was appointed by the Ross Town Council in 2008. The group is composed of five Ross residents, including residents that have professional design backgrounds in architecture, landscape design or other comparable fields. The Advisory Design Review Group provides professional review of design-related issues, including site planning, building massing, setbacks, light/air, privacy, etc., as well as mate-

rial selection in architectural and landscape design. The objective of the process is to provide applicants with helpful advice early in the review process and to offer early opportunity for neighbor input and feedback.

The Council recognized outgoing ADR member Dean Popplewell for serving on ADR from February 10, 2011 to February 14, 2013.

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Rupert Russell
Mayor

The Mayor's Report



Flood Mitigation remains a key priority for the Town. This is to let you know that I have put it on the agenda for the next Town Council meeting in March to review and determine what we can do to help on various flooding and disaster related issues. The County has been working on its Ross Valley Watershed Program and we will invite the County to participate and update us on progress, for instance, on the proposed detention basins at Phoenix Lake and Memorial Park in San Anselmo.

You should be aware that the Town has recently updated its website on flood information and lots of useful information ranging from revising the FEMA maps to building in the floodplain to details of flood insur-

ance can be found under Public Safety and Emergency Services on the website. With the merger of the Town's fire department with that of Ross Valley, the Town now also has greater coordination of emergency services across Ross Valley and the Town has sought to work out a concerted approach, in particular with San Anselmo, on such policies as providing real time creek gage data and on sounding the flood horn, which are now addressed in FAQs. I am also proud that Ross' stormwater ordinance (largely designed by the Town's current representative on Flood Zone 9 and former Council member and Mayor, Chris Martin) is widely respected in Ross Valley as one of the few substantive changes to have affected the physical landscape so far in the Ross

Valley since the flood of 2005 and has set a high standard for other municipalities to follow.

Finally, on a different but important subject I want to give thanks for the life and works of Carla Ehat who lived on Glenwood Avenue in Ross and who died recently. Stories about her life have abounded in the Marin Independent Journal (as recently as Sunday) and in other local publications. She led a wonderful and colorful life that enriched the community in Ross and our community has so much to be thankful for as a result of her work, which has a lot to do with why Ross is the place that all love today. I did not know her but my sincerest respects and deepest sympathies go out to Carla Ehat's remaining family.

Marin Sanitary Service 2013 Rates



The Town participates in a franchisor's group comprised of San Rafael, Larkspur, portions of Marin County and the Las Gallinas Valley Sanitary District that in turn retains an independent consulting firm to review the rate package submitted annually by Marin Sanitary Service (MSS). HF&H Consultants, LLC (HF&H) has determined that a 0.22% rate increase is appropriate for the Town of Ross to compensate MSS for its costs to provide refuse and related services in Ross. Each year, the Town Council holds a public hearing to

set the maximum collection rates that can be collected by MSS in the Town of Ross.

Over the past ten years, the approved annual increase in Marin Sanitary Service rates have ranged from less than one percent to over 10%. The rate increase of 10.84% in 2011 was 6.50% plus an additional 4.34% for the introduction of the residential food scraps program.

MSS submitted an initial rate proposal for 2013 with a proposed 5.41% increase over 2012 rates. After consultation with

HF&H and further review by their controller, MSS submitted an amended rate application with a proposed increase of 2.28%. HF&H then did a detailed review of the MSS rate proposal and recommended several adjustments for the Franchising Agencies. This year's rate increase is less than 1% due to a variety of factors, the most significant being the renegotiation by MSS of their disposal agreement with Redwood Landfill.



Coffee with the Chief

Police Chief Erik Masterson can often be found at the Ross Café having a cup of tea on Wednes-

day mornings about 9:00 a.m. (subject for workload of course). If you would like to share a cup (or coffee if you prefer) and pass

on your thoughts, ask a question, make a suggestion, or just say hi, then please stop by.

Council Considers New Enforcement Process

Town Staff requested the Council to consider an ordinance that would allow non-police staff to enforce violations of the Town Municipal Code in order to encourage compliance with the code. Currently, violations of the Municipal Code are punishable as an infraction or misdemeanor and may also be considered a public nuisance and abated by a civil or criminal action by the city attorney, district attorney, county counsel or Town Council, but not enforced by non-police staff.

If the ordinance is implemented, violators would receive a notice from staff and have at last 30 days to comply or other reasonable time as staff may determine. If they do not comply, Town staff may send them an administrative citation and fine them for the violation. The fines range from \$100 to \$1,000, depending on the violation.

The Town Council continued the item until the March Council meeting so that staff can consider draft language that would allow parties that disagree with

the result of a staff-level hearing on an administrative citation, to appeal the decision to the Town Council.

Staff surveyed other jurisdictions with similar ordinances and most reported that, with the process in place and the ability to issue fines at a staff level, most violations were corrected prior to the need for issuance of a citation or further action.

The Town currently sends notices of violation to property

owners regarding violations and if compliance is not reached the violation is typically considered by the Town Council, which involves significantly more staff and Council time than the proposed process.

ROSS PLACES IN THE TOP 20 OF NATIONAL GREEN POWER COMMUNITIES

The Town of Ross has received "Green Power Community Recognition" for purchasing power from Marin Clean Energy. The recognition is awarded based on the amount of green power used by all residents and businesses in our community. The green power percentage used will be displayed on the EPA website, and places Ross in the Top 20 of National Green Power Communities by percent.

DISCO Block Captains Still Needed

Patti Shimek, Coordinator and Block Captain of the Ross Disaster Preparedness Council (DISCO), is seeking neighborhood Block Captains. The Ross community is divided into areas, each with a "Captain". Their mission is to educate Ross residents in caring for themselves during the critical 72-hour to 1-week period following an emergency, and in the process, get to know your neighbors along the way.

DISCO works with the Ross Police Chief, Ross Valley Fire Department, Red Cross and the Marin County Sheriff's Department who provide guidance to the group. If you are interested in becoming a Block Captain and taking part in this potentially life saving movement, please contact Patti Shimek at 415-456-5981, or P_shimek@hotmail.com.

Several life-saving educational events are coming up:

- Get Ready Ross class (see announcement on Page 4)
- CERT Training, College of Marin, February 28, March 2, March 9
- Advanced CERT Training/ First Aid Certification, Corte Madera Fire Department, March 2 and April 6,



Patti Shimek
Coordinator, DISCO

Ross Valley Paramedic Authority Tax Levy Set

The Council adopted a Resolution approving the Ross Valley Paramedic Authority (RVPA) tax levy for the 2013-14 fiscal year.

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 RVPA tax is taken to the voters every four years. All member agencies must annually adopt a resolution approving the parcel tax for the upcoming year.

In November 2010, the RVPA proposed and the voters in all member agencies approved a continuation of a tax that begins

at \$42 plus a 50-cent administrative fee paid to the county, and incrementally increases each year by \$3. In the fourth year, the tax will top out at \$51 plus the 50-cent administrative fee paid to the county. Since this is the third year of the current tax, it will increase to \$48 plus the 50-cent administrative fee for a total of \$48.50.





Senior Planner
Elise Semonian

Planning Application Scoreboard

The Town Council took the following action on planning applications considered at last night's Council meeting. For more information on each planning application, visit www.townofross.org/pages/town_council/staff_reports.html. The minutes of this meeting will be available on the website at www.townofross.org after approval at the March 2013 Council meeting.

Address	Applicant	Council Action	Vote (for/against/abstain)
12 Norwood Avenue	Mark & Sarah Kruttschnitt	Approved	4-0-1 (Russell abstained)
10 Hill Road	Russell & Courtney Earl	Approved	5-0-0
6 Woodside Way	Dan Rosenthal	Continued	--

FREE

GET READY CLASS

Household Disaster Preparedness

Sponsored by the Ross Valley Fire Department

Saturday, February 23, 2013, 10:00 am-12 noon

Ross Town Hall

If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Justin Hanson at
jshanson@rossvalleyfire.org

FREE

What's Next...

- Town Hall Offices will be closed Monday, February 18, 2013 for President's Day.
- The Advisory Design Review Group will meet on Tuesday, February 26, 2013 at 7:00 p.m.
- The Finance Committee will meet on Friday, March 1, 2013 at 3:00 p.m.
- The Public Works Committee will meet on Friday, March 8, 2013 at 8:00 a.m.
- The next regular Town Council meeting will be held on March 14, 2013 at 6:00 p.m. Agendas and staff reports are posted in advance of the meeting on the Town's website at www.townofross.org. All meetings are held at Town Hall unless indicated otherwise. You may email Council members by accessing the website at www.townofross.org/pages/contact/email_council.html.

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