From:	Stephanie Hellman
To:	CouncilAll
Cc:	Christa Johnson - Town Manager; Cyndie Martel; Dan Mahoney
Subject:	Hellman public comment for Ross 11/9 meeting: Items 12 & 13
Date:	Thursday, November 9, 2023 3:31:04 PM

Dear Ross Town Council,

Regarding Items 12 & 13. I believe the Staff memo for Item 12 inadvertently or non-intentionally reduced or demoted the role of RVFD personnel who staff the engines that respond to medical calls in Ross. The title "EMT" referenced in this report reduces the technical training/status and role of the RVFD personnel who staff the engines that respond to medical calls in Ross. Everyone in the RVFD is a trained EMT. A subset are Licensed Paramedics.

EMTs and Paramedics both play vital roles in the emergency medical services (EMS) system, and they have different levels of training and expertise, as well as varying scopes of practice. Paramedics receive more extensive education and training, allowing them to provide a higher level of care and take on more advanced responsibilities.

Of the 25 personnel who staff the RVFD fire engines, 10 are Licensed Paramedics. RVFD has a contractual agreement with Ross Valley Paramedic Authority (RVPA) to staff Stations 20 and 21 with a Licensed paramedic at all times. Stations 18 and 19 may have a paramedic working there if they are available or are stationed there longer term. The vision and the goal for properly staffing all fire engines (with 3) will expand paramedic coverage to Station 19.

As you likely know the majority of calls are medical in nature. A Licensed Paramedic will respond to a Medical call. These are responded to by either an 'engine-based paramedic' or an 'ambulance-based paramedic' – the key difference being the engine is not able to transport (to hospital). The RVPA pays for RVFD paramedic training for and the 11% incremental salary premium paid to Licensed Paramedics.

I am aware you have much to consider with regard to public safety in your town. **Thank you** all for your service and commitment to community.

Stephanie Hellman
Board President, Ross Valley Fire Department
Council member, Town of Fairfax