

TOWN OF SAN ANSELMO
STAFF REPORT
July 7, 2010

For the meeting of July 13, 2010

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 2, 2010, 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 \$42.00.

The RVPA tax is set to conclude on June 30, 2011, thus an election on November 2, 2010 is necessary in order to maintain this revenue. 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 elected body, as well as the voters, has overwhelmingly supported the approval of this tax measure every four years since 1982.

DISCUSSION

As proposed, the tax will remain at the current rate of \$42 for the first year. The RVPA Board would then have the option to raise the tax incrementally over the final three years. A similar four-step increase was incorporated into the 2007-11 tax rate schedule, and it was actually raised only once.

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

| | |
|---------|--|
| 2011-12 | \$42 plus fifty cents administrative fee charged to the County |
| 2012-13 | \$45 plus fifty cents administrative fee charged to the County |
| 2013-14 | \$48 plus fifty cents administrative fee charged to the County |
| 2014-15 | \$51 plus fifty cents administrative fee charged to the County |

The RVPA Board has approved both the ballot language and the ballot argument. This is attached for your review. Each agency must submit the proper materials to the Marin County Elections Office by August 2, 2010.

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
Roger Meagor, Ross Valley Fire Chief

Attachments

RESOLUTION NO. 2010-14

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF SAN ANSELMO CALLING AND GIVING NOTICE OF THE HOLDING OF AN ELECTION TO BE HELD NOVEMBER 2, 2010 AND REQUESTING THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF MARIN 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 2, 2010 for the submission to the voters of 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 be the same; and

Whereas, it is desirable that the county election department of the County of Marin canvass the returns of the General Election and that the election be handled in all respects as if there were only one election; and

Whereas, the Town Council desires to submit to the voters at the election a question relating to the special tax for paramedic services,

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, on Tuesday, November 2, 2010 an election in the Town for the submission to the voters of a question relating to a special tax for paramedic services.

Section 2. That pursuant to the requirements of Section 23302 of the 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, pursuant to its rights and authority, does order submitted to the voters at the election the following question:

Shall there be a continuation of the four year special tax for paramedic services in the amount of \$42.50 not exceeding \$51.50 in the fourth year per taxable living unit or per 1,500 square feet of structure of each developed parcel in a non-residential use, to be collected in addition to transport fees charged to insurance providers for Ross Valley residents, with the Town appropriations limit increased by the amount of said tax for the next four years?

Section 4. That pursuant to Elections Code section 5011, 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 5011. Arguments for and against said measure may be filed in accordance with applicable provisions of the law. Pursuant to Section 5014.5 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. 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 5. That the County election 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 6. That the Board of Supervisors is requested to issue instructions to the County Election Department to take any and all steps necessary for the holding of the consolidated election.

Section 7. That the Town Clerk is hereby directed to file a certified copy of this resolution with the Board of Supervisors and the Election Department of the County of Marin.

Section 8. That the polls for the election shall be open at 7:00 a.m. of the election 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 14301 of the Elections Code of the State of California.

Section 9. 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 10. 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 11. That the Town Clerk shall certify the passage and adoption of this Resolution and enter it into the book of original resolutions.

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 13th day of July, 2010, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

Approved: _____
Barbara Thornton, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Barbara Chambers, Town Clerk

**TOWN OF SAN ANSELMO
STAFF REPORT
July 7, 2010**

For the meeting of July 13, 2010

TO: Town Council

FROM: Debra Stutsman, Town Manager

SUBJECT: Paramedic Special Tax
Ballot Argument

RECOMMENDATION

That Council approve the proposed ballot argument supporting the special tax to continue to provide paramedic services in the Ross Valley.

BACKGROUND

The Ross Valley Paramedic Authority (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. At the July 11, 2006 meeting, the Council approved a resolution calling for a measure on the November ballot to renew the special tax, with the tax to be in the amount of \$39 increasing by \$3 per year not to exceed \$48 for each living unit, and per 1,500 square feet of structure of non residential use.

The tax is now set to expire and a measure to renew the tax is proposed. The new ballot language reads as follows:

"Shall there be a continuation of the four year special tax for paramedic services in the amount of \$42.50 not exceeding \$51.50 in the fourth year per taxable living unit or per 1,500 square feet of structure of each developed parcel in a non-residential use, to be collected in addition to transport fees charged to insurance providers for Ross Valley residents, with the appropriations limit increased by the amount of said tax for the next four years?"

DISCUSSION

The following ballot argument in support of the measure is recommended by the Ross Valley Paramedic Authority:

"Since 1982, the voters in the Ross Valley have overwhelmingly approved a special tax to provide paramedic service. To continue this high standard of emergency medical care for four more years, you must now re-approve this measure. The initial Ross Valley Paramedic Authority (RVPA) tax provides for

a single ambulance. The demand for paramedic service from our citizens dictates that service levels continue to expand and evolve.

In an effort to minimize the burden on our citizens, the RVPA has not raised the tax as previously scheduled. Each year over the past four years, the tax was scheduled to incrementally increase to a maximum of \$48 per living unit and for each 1,500 square feet of non-residential developed space. However, we have been able to keep the tax at a rate of only \$42 and meet our cost expectations while continuing to improve service levels with the addition of paramedic engine companies and furnishing all Ross Valley fire agencies with new defibrillation equipment. We again ask that you continue the tax at the \$42 rate with the ability, if needed, to raise the tax incrementally each year by \$3 to a rate not to exceed \$51 (plus fifty cents County administrative fee) in the fourth year.

Your tax pays for a significant portion of the paramedic program. Additional funds are collected from medical insurance companies through a program known as third party billing, and from billing of non-resident customers. In addition, your tax covers paramedic training, the cost of medical supplies and equipment, and the replacement of ambulance transport 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 _____.”

For your information, also included in the ballot will be an impartial analysis by the Town Attorney, as follows:

“If this measure is approved by a two-thirds vote, the special tax for paramedic services administered by a Joint Powers Authority will be continued for four more years. The tax for residential units will be \$42.50 per taxable living unit in the first year, with the option to be increased thereafter by \$3.00 per year. The tax for non residential parcels will be \$42.50 per 1,500 square feet of structure for each developed parcel in non-residential use in the first year, with the option to be increased thereafter by \$3.00 per year. The tax will be collected in addition to fees for transport to the hospital as 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, 2011.

Respectfully submitted,



Debra Stutsman
Town Manager