

Proposed Library Budget Up 11 Per Cent

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Sentinel Staff Writer

A complicated \$1,337,716 library budget for fiscal 1977-78 was approved by the library trustees today for recommendation to the County Board of Supervisors and Santa Cruz City Council.

The budget is up by almost 11 per cent over the \$1,207,189 allocated for library operation this current fiscal year.

The increase is expected to boost the county's library tax from the current 17 cents per \$100 of assessed valuation to 20.6 cents per \$100, the library trustees were told in a budget breakdown by Librarian Charles Atkins.

The city tax rate is expected to remain "about the same," Atkins said.

In later elaboration to The Sentinel, Atkins said the present city tax rate is 23 cents per \$100 for the library fund and two cents per \$100 for debt service, or a total of 25 cents

per \$100. Adjustments in the debt service tax downward will probably balance off any necessary tax increase for the library fund.

The budget is complicated by an agreement through which the county and city pay the costs of the system on the basis of the number of books circulated in their jurisdictional areas.

It's expected that 1,060,000 books will be circulated throughout the system next fiscal year: 742,000, or 70 per cent, in the county; and 318,000, or 30 per cent, in the city.

The shared costs portion of the budget, after anticipated revenues have been deducted, will come to an estimated \$855,200 for the county and \$374,595 for the city.

Additionally, the county will pay some \$180,000 for costs involving its agreement with the Watsonville library and to pay off other obligations, as well as to create a contingency fund.

The library trustees bought the original budget as proposed by Atkins, but then added some \$2,400 to increase library hours in Boulder Creek and Ben Lomond.

An additional \$8,000 was budgeted to keep the Santa Cruz Main Library open Sunday, but this is to be paid solely by the city, probably with federal funds if the city council approves.

The library board was told also by Atkins that County Administrative Officer Ted Durkee has approved going to the board of supervisors with requests to forward the construction of a Live Oak library and a new library in the Boulder Creek area.

The recommendation is that the supervisors appropriate \$87,500 from the county's accumulated capital outlay fund to pay the county's share of cost for site surveys, land acquisition and development of plans and specifications.

A breakdown of costs for the

two libraries is given as: Boulder Creek - plans \$15,000, site \$30,000, construction \$135,000. Live Oak - plans \$20,000, site \$60,000, construction \$180,000.

Costs of these libraries, if city and county agree on the program and financial planning, will also be on the basis of each jurisdiction's share of book circulation, or 70 per cent for the county and 30 per cent for the city in the next fiscal year.

Budgets and construction must be approved by the city council and the supervisors.

In other business, the trustees elected Gerald Towner their 1977-78 chairman and Virginia Plattner as vice chair-

man. Towner succeeds Marilyn Hummel, who has completed two terms on the board and is not eligible for reappointment.

Mello Named To Energy Panel

Assemblyman Henry Mello, D-28th District, has been appointed to an Assembly energy policy panel.

"I know of no long-term issue facing the legislature as impor-

tant as energy use and conservation," said Mello. The subcommittee to which he has been appointed is the Energy Subcommittee of the Assembly Resources, Land Use and Energy Committee.

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'Heavy Work Schedule' Class Set At Cabrillo

A system for reviving individual energy is one of the goals of a Cabrillo College Community Services class designed for