

County Agency Adopts Complex Filing Form For Incorporation

If Live Oak residents want cityhood, they will have to foot the bills for some complicated county filing requirements.

A long filing form for incorporations was adopted by the County Local Agency Formation Commission Wednesday, as proposed by Executive Officer Ed Hanna and given to Live Oak incorporation groups.

But the LAFCO refused to go along with another suggestion by Hanna that the county should provide free help in getting information for the forms.

The information includes such things as assessed valuation, possible sales tax revenues, state subventions, and numerous other facts and figures which virtually amount to a city budget.

Despite the LAFCO's refusal to help, both Live Oak incorporation groups said later they can fill out the forms themselves.

Hanna said he knows of no other county which has such a long filing form. He said the cost of filling out the form would be about \$500 if a county employe were paid to do it.

"It's much better to get this information prior to the filing of an incorporation petition with county supervisors than it is

to get it prior to an election," Hanna said. Some elections would be more successful or not necessary at all if detailed cityhood costs could be figured in advance.

But Commissioners Eugene Fleming and Russ McCauley charged it would be setting a precedent to provide this kind of help to any one group.

Commissioner Dan Forbus, a county supervisor from the Live Oak area, supported Hanna's proposal for giving some help.

"These people are forced into the difficult position of gathering information when they have no planning staffs like the cities," Forbus said. "After all, they are reacting to an action by the cities to annex their area."

Fleming, a Santa Cruz City representative, argued that moves for incorporation aren't the result of pressure by the cities of Santa Cruz and Capitola to annex parts of Live Oak. "If they don't want the cities' proposal, then it's up to them to bring in a proposal of their own volition. If they feel incorporation is that great, they could raise the money and pay for it themselves."

Dorothy Weynacht, a member of the Live Oak Improvement Association, charged that Flem-

ing "might be biased, coming from the City of Santa Cruz." She reminded Fleming that city taxpayers' money was used for the Santa Cruz annexation study and said Live Oak wants to use its tax money the same way.

Elizabeth Ward of LOCAL-G, another Live Oak group backing cityhood, also said county help would be welcome.

"I'm sorry for the Live Oak people who had this thrown in their laps," commented Commissioner Louis Haber. "But I don't feel we have a right to spend money on this. The people of Live Oak can get good, professional advice on these forms without cost. I'm sure Friend Stone of Scotts Valley would help."

Fleming moved approval of the long filing form for all incorporation proposals and moved to reject the request for aid in filling out the form. He was seconded by Haber. Flem-

ing did not close the door on any county cooperation, but said that the county should charge for any help.

Forbus argued that a precedent for spending money has already been set in the UCSC Mid-County study proposal, and said the LAFCO is going to need the information on the filing form whether Live Oak citizens get it or not. "I can't see any harm in providing this service to the people. \$500 is not a lot of money." Forbus asked that the question of offering help be held over for study.

But other LAFCO members voted to reject Live Oak's plea for aid, and Forbus cast the lone vote in favor of it.

Both Mrs. Weynacht and Mrs. Ward said after the meeting that the LAFCO's refusal to help will not slow down the incorporation efforts of either group. "We're not going to let this stop us," Mrs. Ward said.



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