

# Capitola Council ponders library, fire districts

The Capitola City Council will meet at 7 p.m. tomorrow instead of Thursday, because of the Thanksgiving holiday.

Council members will consider once more whether to join a "county service area" to help pay for library services.

That question has already received the council's "no" vote, but the county Board of Supervisors last month gave Capitola one more chance to say yes.

The cities of Santa Cruz and Scotts Valley have already agreed to join the service area, which could eventually impose fees on property owners to fund the library system.

A proposed Capitola Mall expansion plan currently provides space for a 7,000-square-foot library, but library system officials have said a 20,000-square-foot library is needed to serve the Capitola and Live Oak areas.

Capitola council members have demanded written proof that fees collected from city residents would go toward a Capitola library.

Formal notice must be given the Local Agency Formation Commission by 5 p.m. Monday if Capitola wants to join the service area, which means action would need to be taken tomorrow, or the city would have to follow normal annexa-

tion procedures if it decided to join later.

Another area of service on which the council must take a position pertains to fire protection. The city and the Capitola Fire Protection District have applied to LAFCO to form a subsidiary fire district that would be administered by the city.

According to a recently completed study, however, local residents would receive the

best fire protection for their money through Capitola's annexation to the Central Fire Protection District.

The city staff is recommending council members meet with the fire board to decide on a position to take at the Dec. 3 LAFCO meeting.

Tomorrow's meeting is in the City Hall council chambers, 420 Capitola Ave.