Supervisor wants to move library

The Freedom branch library should be moved, Pajaro Valley supervisor Cecil Smith told the Santa Cruz city-county library Trustees Monday morning.

Smith made the proposal, suggesting that a new location be found for the branch that occupies a building on Freedom Blvd. owned by Watsonville mayor Bill Johnston.

"I hope you take steps to relocate the Freedom library site," Smith told the trustees at the close of a discussion on a new library for the Live Oak area.

"It is publicly known that the area will be the subject of an annexation (attempt) by Watsonville. That will pace our building in the city of Watsonville." Library director Charles Atkins told the trustees and Smith that he had been unsuccessfully negotiating with the owners of the Pajaro Valley Shopping Center (Freedom and Airport Blvd.) for five years seeking a site there. The problem, said Atkins, is that the shopping center wants a long term lease for a library that would soon be in the city of Watsonville. Atkins is reluctant to commit the county to such an agreement unless Watsonville would agree to pick up the lease if the annexation was successful.

Smith indicated such a move wasn't the solution.

"We need to consider relocation, not just moving across the street. I think our service area for that branch has shifted.

One location named by Smith as a site alternative is the Amesti Road-Pioneer

After the meeting, Smith pointed out that the Corralitos area has no library service at all. "And there is all that population in the Amesti Road, Brown's Valley, Green Valley and Mesa Village area.

"The areas of population today are not in Freedom. If a person in Mesa Village gets in his car to go to the library, he isn't going to stop at the little branch in Freedom. He'll go on to the city library.

"Corralitos is not in my district, but they have no service at all. There is no service (except bookmobile) in the canyons.

"We may even find," he added in response to a question, "that there is no need for a county library in the area."

The library trustees asked Atkins and Smith to consider new sites for a library in the Pajaro Valley.

REFERENCE

