

Routh elected mayor

40 want to be Capitola's top cop

Capitola officials will interview police chief candidates Saturday.

Interviews will be conducted by a five-member selection board in closed session with the city council sitting as observers.

Management consultant Richard Hughes told the council that his firm has talked to over 100 people in its search for candidates to fill the position vacated when the council demoted Martin Bergthold into a public affairs position.

The firm has received 40

applications, including three from Santa Cruz County. Of the remainder, the bulk are from northern California, seven are from southern California, three from central California and one from a state to the north of California.

Hughes told the council to plan on interviewing four candidates in one-hour-and-15-minute interviews Saturday, beginning at 10 a.m.

Sitting on the interview board will be Palo Alto City Manager

George Sipel, Chief Deputy Marvin Gangloff of the Santa Cruz Sheriff's Department; Anne Taylor, executive director of the San Mateo county unit of the California Council on Criminal Justice, Capitola village restaurant owner Phil McCrillis and former police officer Dave Downey who is now a law student.

The latter two were appointed by Mayor Michael Routh as the community representatives on the board.

Routh was unanimously elected mayor after the three newly-elected councilmembers — Robert Garcia, Jerry Clarke and Mrs. Carin Mudgett — were sworn in by city clerk Cathy Athenour.

Hughes cautioned the council to remain in an observer's role Saturday or abolish the interview board and take over the active questioning themselves.

"If the council wants to do the interviewing, then you had better eliminate the panel."

The consultant also warned the council that none of the candidates needs a new job. The city will have to make it attractive for them to leave their present positions and take over leadership of the troubled police department.

"You are in a seller's role," he told the council. "The people you are interested in don't have to move."

Hughes also urged the council to make their selection Saturday. "There may be some negotiations," he said.

The interview board was expanded from four to five members to include an additional public member, largely at the insistence of Garcia, Mrs. Mudgett and Clarke.

The suggestion was initially opposed by Councilman Ron Graves, who said it would be difficult to find two people to represent the views of 8,000, any easier than selecting one.

Routh appointed the only two people that had been suggested to him.

Routh also confirmed the appointments by former mayor Tom Mason to the city's alternate personnel appeals board. Members now include El Errick, Gene Delucchi, Mike

Dever, George Sherinian and George Gallucci, who replaced Jack Nicol on the original board.

The board will meet tonight in closed-door session to hear the appeal by police Sgt. Dennis Syfers and the Operating Engineers of the council's demotion of Syfers to sergeant from the rank of commander and a 15-day without pay suspension.

The council also adopted ordinances limiting city council terms to eight years, and allowing each council member to appoint one planning commissioner.

The three new council members were sworn in to applause from a nearly-filled council chamber.

A moment of laughter was provided when a stray Bassett hound wandered through the council chambers, visiting each of the council members before being ushered out the back door by City Attorney Richard Manning.

Outgoing councilmen John Dixon and Hill Nelson received applause from the audience and thanks from Routh as they concluded their service to the city. Nelson served eight years on the city council. Dixon retired after a single four-year term. Routh presented Mason with a gavel signifying his service as the city's mayor for the last two years.

REFERENCE

Cabrillo times and Green
Sheet Mar. 16, 1978