

City, County Officials Air County-Wide Pound, Library

By Jack Rannells

County-wide animal shelter and library service proposals were thoroughly aired last night by Santa Cruz county supervisors city councilmen.

Host Watsonville councilmen indicated the consolidated pound operation may meet opposition because of distances involved. However, their interest was awakened to the possibility of cooperation for better library service.

At present, Santa Cruz and Watsonville maintain separate pound operations. The Animal Welfare society, SPCA, handles the remainder of the county under contract with the supervisors.

Santa Cruz and Watsonville administrators have suggested that giving the Animal Welfare society the contract for their areas, too, might result in a better level of service at less cost to taxpayers.

Seven men, in effect, would replace the one-man operations in the cities, Mike Kilgore, Santa Cruz administrative assistant, reported.

Freedom Election Hassle Goes To Superior Court

The contesting of the recent election of the Freedom school board was turned over to superior court this morning by the county clerk's office.

The court will set a hearing for June 7 at 10 a.m. on the matter, which came about after complaints of John Fiorovich, a candidate who lost to Mrs. Phyllis Espindola by five votes. Fiorovich indicated 14 people voted illegally which could be a sufficient number to change the result of the election. The voting confusion came about because of a split-count voting precinct, County Clerk Tom Kelley said earlier.

It is possible the court will find the election in error which would allow the county superintendent of schools to appoint a member to serve until the next regular election, Kelley said.

US Food Stamp Program To Be Started Monday

Washington (AP) — The agriculture department will start its first pilot food stamp program Monday in McDowell county, W. Va.

The preliminary county budget includes a \$40,000 item for the county-wide service.

Lewis Nelson, board chairman, said last night he feels this is too high and suggested that this should be negotiated before any final cooperative agreement.

"We are getting good service, but we are paying through the nose (\$24,000) for it," Nelson said.

The three cities would pay the difference between the \$24,000 current figure and the final fee.

Dog licenses income would take care of most of this, leaving the city dwellers with only the existing "double taxation" for their share of the county operations.

"We might save \$1000 and lose control and personal contact," Watsonville Councilman Bill Murphy said in criticizing the proposal. He suggested that public relations of the city would suffer correspondingly.

Murphy took an opposite position on the library discussion.

"It's a difference between service and authority," he explained.

Arlene Hope, consultant for the state librarian, obviously touched fertile ground in discussing various cooperative library systems in California.

Inter-system borrowing; central, low-cost storage for low-demand books; film programs; and efficient central processing can result without loss of autonomy of the separate library systems, Miss Hope said.

"The theory is that shared operations result in economies whilst the quality, level and speed of service is increased," she said. The city of Santa Cruz, under contract, provides library service for the entire county, exclusive of Watsonville. Main libraries of both the Santa Cruz and Watsonville systems long since have passed designed capacities.

In addition, county supervisors are growing increasingly resistant to the contractual agreement with the city. The county pays 58 per cent of operating costs while having little say over the level of service.

"Possibly, we should explore some sort of unified service for the whole county," Santa Cruz City Manager Peter Tedesco told the officials.

The quarterly meetings — attended by Santa Cruz, Capitola and Watsonville councilmen and the supervisors — are for exchange of ideas rather than action. Next meeting was set for August 17.