

Supervisors Set Up Budget For Detention Home

7-17-49

Friday the supervisors set up the budget for the Santa Cruz county detention home, referred to by the state officials as the county juvenile hall, at a total cost of \$51,226 for the 1949-50 year, including cost of construction.

Of this sum, \$43,000 was set aside for construction, which will also include hardware, furnishings and floor coverings, \$3548 for salary from the salary fund and \$1,950 from the general fund.

The state will pay half the cost of construction; the other half is already held by the county in the detention home fund. This leaves about \$2700 which will have to be placed against the taxpayers, about one half cent on \$100 valuation, Auditor George Kriz said.

The juvenile hall will be under the supervision of Ernie Balke, county probation officer.

It will be operated by a superintendent of the hall and an assistant superintendent, preferably a man and wife, otherwise two women, at \$208 and \$173 a month respectively, with money set aside for both salaries as well as the other expenses for an eight month period.

It will be several months before the building now under construction on the hospital grounds is completed.

Balke pointed out that a woman must be within the building at all times whenever a girl is being detained at the hall. He added that the county had not been without a female juvenile in custody for at least six months, which would make the job a 24-hour, seven day a week set-up.

With this in mind, the supervisors set aside \$500 for extra help,

to be used for days off and vacation periods.

The quarters will be unfurnished and the supervisors could not decide how much to charge the superintendent and assistant for rental of the quarters.

Rental is now mandatory, because of income tax, which must be charged back against a person's salary, Kriz pointed out.

It was here that Sheriff J. R. Devitt, a spectator during the two hour meeting, wanted to know if the board intended to charge the matron \$50 a month rental, the same as the county jail matron was being charged.

"That gives her a salary of \$158 a month," Devitt told the supervisors, "and she is on 24-hour duty, as required by law, the same as in the case of the detention home, where females are concerned."

"It is my personal feeling that

the charge on the jail is pretty heavy," Supervisor Lloyd Foster answered.

Board Chairman Frank Clement agreed.

He pointed out the quarters at Big Tree park, much better and preferable to a jail, only brought \$30 a month rental.

Devitt reminded the supervisors that the jail quarters for the matron and jailor were also unfurnished and that the furniture belonged to the occupants.

"If we didn't have a man and wife, we would have to have three matrons on eight hour shifts," said Devitt. "We haven't been without a woman prisoner in our jail for three years."

One of the supervisors remarked that J. J. A. McMullin, former county hospital superintendent, was only charged \$25 a month for the newly furnished two-bedroom

house the three members of his family occupied.

The supervisors tentatively agreed upon \$10 a month for both the detention home and the jail, with a final decision to be announced and acted upon at the July 23 meeting.

Meals for the youngsters who occupy the building will be prepared by the county hospital kitchen and served at the juvenile hall. The meals, for purpose of records, will be estimated at 35 cents each.

In other matters discussed Friday, the supervisors, with the exception of A. Frank Oettl, who could not be found for a slated morning meeting or the afternoon session, allowed a small change in the assessor's budget and also granted Kriz permission to order two work tables for his remodeled

quarters in the old court house, at a cost of about \$250.

Road Commissioner Fred Pracht was given permission to go ahead with plans to purchase a new road mix machine at something over \$17,000.

A similar machine was investigated last week by Clement and Pracht at Jackson, where one was in operation.

The board, still in informal session, also agreed to grant Sheriff Devitt \$300 in his budget for additional radio equipment for the conversion of seven transmitters at about \$40 each.

In company with Walter Keller, city electrician, Devitt explained that soon both the city and county radio channels will be changed according to orders from the FCC with the result that equipment changes are also indicated.