

Aptos Cityhood Drive Gets A Push

By Alan Pugh

Sentinel Staff Writer

Strength for proposals to incorporate the Aptos community was gained today in the announced support of Fred Toney, second major Aptos property owner to urge the matter be brought to a vote of the people.

"I would like to see it talked up and gone into thoroughly," he said. "At least we could see the advantages and disadvantages. I personally believe we would benefit from incorporation."

Yesterday, Paul Johnson, owner of about 80 per cent of the

property on the south side of Soquel drive in Aptos, said he definitely favored incorporation and that he was planning to see Supervisor Robert Burton to determine "how we would fare before the local agency formation commission."

County Clerk Tom Kelley, who is also the executive officer of LAFC, declared proponents of incorporation would "best consult legal advice so their presentation would be in order." He cited a recent legislative change in city incorporation procedure. It reads:

"No petition seeking the incorporation of a new city may be circulated or filed with the board of supervisors, and neither the board nor the clerk of the board shall accept any such petition for filing until the proposal for the incorporation of the new city, including a map and specific detailed legal description of the territory proposed to be incorporated, has been submitted to the local agency formation commission. . ."

The new law cites government code section 54719 and

continues that the boundary description of the territory proposed to be incorporated must be "determined by the (LAFC) executive officer to be definite and certain."

Kelley said incorporation leaders would have to file such statements with him as the LAFC officer, before county action could be taken.

Johnson took a dim view of the LAFC and supervisorial reaction to any Aptos incorporation idea "because the supervisors have a gold mine here and don't want to let it go."

Toney touched on the same theme, declaring he was sure Aptos would be much better off incorporated because then it could keep its money in its own pocket.

He said Aptos could provide its own police protection "and get better protection than we are from the county" at the same cost it is paying the county.

He cited the Aptos fire department as being judged a "definite improvement," according to insurance agencies. "One insurance man told me we should have an improved fire rating because of our improved department—yet the county has done nothing toward getting that different rating . . . my premiums still are the same high cost."

Mrs. Jessie Elliott, long-time sponsor of the incorporation idea, had suggested as boundaries Freedom boulevard and Seacliff drive on the east and west, the freeway on the south and the Ledyard acres line on the north.

Toney said incorporating "too small an area" would be expensive and declared it was his belief to "include all territories that want to come into the incorporated Aptos city."

Both Toney and Johnson pointed to the monies that would come to Aptos from both sales tax and gasoline tax "that are now going to the county."

Incorporation provisions are that 25 per cent of the area's property owners, representing 25 per cent of the assessed valuation must be among petitioners. Toney and Johnson together own approximately 50 per cent of Aptos proper.

Reports are that among other residents of the village itself, there is no "outspoken opposition," and the feeling was the time is ripe to further an incorporation movement.

A preliminary meeting of proponents may be called for sometime next week to formulate plans.

SANTA CRUZ SENTINEL
8-19-65 p.8