

Cooper Town

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Page 13

## One Last Attempt To Save Old Courthouse Building

The old Cooper Street courthouse, standing empty and unusable, got another reprieve on its life Tuesday.

Once again, county supervisors put off calling for bids to demolish the 1894 structure.

Supervisor Ralph Sanson virtually begged the board to try once again to interest the City of Santa Cruz in the purchase of the building. Reluctantly, supervisors agreed.

The city dropped negotiations last year, county officials say, when it became apparent the county would agree to sell the building.

After the city pulled out, a private investment group headed by attorney Philips Patton tried to buy the building. But the private group discovered it would cost about \$200,000 just to modernize the structure to meet pres-

ent building codes, and dropped its option.

Supervisors Dan Forbus and John R. McCallie, who were on the old negotiating committee with the city, said they will let Sanson and Supervisor George Cress give it a last try.

The city wanted the property for a downtown park. If the county demolishes the building, the city will effectively have what it wants without paying for it, Sanson pointed out.