

Aptos Incorporation Petition Move Begins

By KEITH MURAOKA
Sentinel Staff Writer

The petition process to incorporate Aptos will begin immediately, supporters decided Wednesday night, despite the fact that only 22 persons met to discuss the subject and three of them were pessimistic about it.

Glenn Specht, chairwoman of the Aptos Chamber of Commerce's incorporation committee, said that unit will meet today to "put the petition together." Signatures from about 2,500 registered voters within the boundaries of the proposed city will be needed to fulfill the Local Agency Formation Commission's initial requirement on possible incorporation.

Committee member Bruce Burns, who worked on the incorporation proposal along with Audrey Pancake and Larry Wrathall, assured the audience that "we're not railroading something through here." He explained that LAFC will study the petition and possibly change parts of it before holding public hearings. If approved by LAFC, the county Board of Supervisors then would hold more public hearings. If approved by the board, the proposal then would go to an election in which a majority voted would be necessary for incorporation to take place.

Specht said the group is aiming at a June 1980, election, although it could be delayed to November next year.

She reported an anticipated income of \$1,652,698 for the city in the first year, not including property taxes, revenue sharing or utility tax rolls. Expenses were estimated at \$1,162,410.

Included in the income estimates was \$1,092,698 in state grants and subventions confirmed by the state Board of Equalization. Major expenses included \$225,600 for administration of a "council-manager" form of government, \$500,000 for street maintenance and construction, \$40,000 for a planning department, \$50,750 for a building department and \$260,000 for police protection.

The latter figure came under specific attack by M.J. Garibotto and Nome Ferguson who maintained that current county Sheriff's Department protection would be better than that provided under a new city. The \$260,000 estimate came from Sheriff Al Noren. It would cover one full-time sheriff's deputy, as well as back-up in emergencies.

Specht added that police protection now is limited to one deputy in a much larger area that includes La Selva Beach. "We would have one deputy covering an area almost half the current size," she said. "Our police response time would have to improve."

Garibotto maintained that the area now has

California Highway Patrol coverage as well. It would lose this if a city were formed. At one point during the rather heated argument, Ferguson asked, "What sort of an ego trip are you on?"

Specht replied, "It's not an ego trip. It's an opportunity for this community to choose while the choice is ours."

Her sentiment was supported by Wrathall who earlier in the meeting explained that "representation" would be gained instead of the half-supervisor the area now has. (The Second Supervisorial District represents the Capitola area, as well as Aptos.) "I don't think it's time for us to depend on only five people in this county (the Board of Supervisors)," he said. "It's also better to be there two years before

you need to be. If you're already a city, you can take advantage of situations by being ready for them."

The boundaries described by Burns also came under attack by another man in the audience. He maintained it included too much rural area. Specht replied that LAFC would have the opportunity to change them. "The boundaries are only a starting place. It seemed unreasonable to leave our view corridors in the hands of the county," she said.

The proposed boundary encompasses some 26,946 persons. Burns explained it closely resembles the original Aptos Rancho boundaries with the majority of people in the 95003 zip code area included. The 10 square miles roughly includes Cabrillo College to the north and Aptos High School to the south.

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REFERENCE