

Woodridge, District 99 searching for common ground

By Mike Mitchell
STAFF WRITER

In a closed session Sept. 19, Community High School District 99 officials discussed pending litigation between the district and the village of Woodridge, which is trying to obtain a 44-acre parcel by eminent domain.

Mark Staehlin, the district's comptroller, said the district could not disclose the details of the meeting. District 99 and Woodridge were expected in court Sept. 22 at the DuPage County Circuit Court.

Staehlin admitted that neither of the municipalities have talked outside court.

"We're trying to find a common ground," he said. "But I really can't comment much more on the lawsuit."

The two sides couldn't agree on fair-market value for the property in April, which was purchased by the district for a third high school in 1966. Several weeks later, the district hired Newcastle, a marketing agent, to market the area at 71st Street and Woodridge Drive as a potential site for high-density townhouses.

More recently, the school board on Aug. 15 passed a resolution to not sell the property; rather, it could be obtained for the district's use.

The resolution also indicated that the lawsuit has temporarily impaired all plans for the property.

"Since the board is being sued by another public body, the board has to take this action," said Beckman at the Aug. 15 meeting.

More information is expected by the weekend of Sept. 24 to 25.

9/22/05