

Village to pay men's legal fees in dispute

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BOLINGBROOK -- Bolingbrook officials have agreed to foot the bill for lawyers to represent two brothers-in-law they believe are being unfairly blocked by the village of Woodridge from building their business.

The Village Board on Tuesday night approved appointing Dommermuth, Brestal, Cobine and West as special counsel to represent Jay White and Larry Budnik in a lawsuit the village brought against Woodridge late last year.

The lawsuit centers on access to property north of Murphy Road and east of Interstate Highway 355. Bolingbrook officials previously had kept a gate up to restrict people from dumping items on the vacant property.

Once plans were approved for White and Budnik to construct their metal powder coating business on the land, the village removed the gate. Hours later a locked gate was erected by Woodridge officials barring access to the road for White and Budnik.

Bolingbrook annexed much of the land east of Interstate 355, but west of Woodward Avenue, with the exception of one parcel that Woodridge had forcibly annexed surrounding Murphy Road, said Bolingbrook Atty. James Boan. Land in the area under Bolingbrook's jurisdiction is zoned industrial, but the Woodridge parcel is zoned residential.

Woodridge has filed a motion to dismiss the lawsuit, saying there is a way to settle the dispute, contending White and Budnik need to apply for permits to use the road. Bolingbrook officials, however, do not believe Woodridge has the right to tell Bolingbrook what it should do and cannot block access to a public road.

Bolingbrook Mayor Roger Claar said he thinks Woodridge officials think it is the wild West and called it an "embarrassing situation" that another village would do this.

Woodridge officials could not be reached for comment.