

Town Board struggles to resolve disputes among members

By MARIA McBRIDE
BUCCIFERRO

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MILTON — After three months of relative civility, discord has returned to Town Board meetings.

Some members of the audience had angry exchanges with the town supervisor and town attorney Wednesday night over a range of topics, from a grant for a new town park to the town's holding of stock from a sewer company.

After two women complained in April about the disrespectful way people are treated at meetings, members of the audience and the board were courteous and calm in May and June. In July, the kid gloves were off.

Tom Boghosian and Town attorney James Craig launched some 24 verbal volleys relating to

ongoing lawsuits and appeals between Boghosian and his brother Bruce, developers of the Old Mill Town project across from Town Hall, and Heritage Springs Sewer Works, a private company that the Boghosians claim is a unregulated monopoly that the town has failed to audit.

"You sued the town," Craig told Boghosian, who countered, "We are defendants; we are not plaintiffs" in the suit brought by Heritage. The Boghosians then brought the town into the suit as a third party.

As a disagreement ensued over the town's "alleged failure" to audit, Craig said, "Why don't we do this in court, where you brought us?" Holding photocopies of stock certificates, Boghosian asked why Craig had not signed the document that the town was

holding Heritage stock.

"Do you hold the stock of the company? Then sign it," Boghosian said.

But Craig refused, citing confidentiality involving a private corporation.

While a Mavis tire warehouse has been given the go-ahead to be built, the lawsuit has stopped any new development on the Boghosians' 55-acre parcel at Rowland Street and Geysler Road. State Supreme Court Justice Frank Williams upheld Heritage's "breach of contract" claim that the Boghosians failed to pay \$95,875 of \$150,000 owed for sewer service, so additional service can be withheld.

The Boghosians have filed appeals on several issues relating to the suit. Briefs on the consolidated appeal are due Sept. 15,

according to John Privitera, the Boghosians' attorney. A new suit over a trespassing charge against Heritage was filed this spring, he said.

Old Mill Town currently includes Hannaford, a mini-golf course, a bank and other businesses, but only 65,000 square feet of the 400,000 square feet approved for the parcel have been developed.

In his exchange with Craig, Boghosian cited "the lack of economic growth, lack of job creation, lack of expanded tax base, forcing residents to buy goods and services in other municipalities" caused by the building moratorium.

Voices were calmer during debate on a property tax exemption for Cold War veterans, which was approved.