

Town drawn into tiff over water usage

Written by MARK JAEGER

Wednesday, 19 September 2012 16:13

Water has been a precious commodity in parts of parched Ozaukee County, but there may be no better example of that dynamic than the dispute between The Bog golf course and a neighboring property owner on the west end of Hillcrest Road.

Earlier in the drought-stricken summer, the Bell family noted the water well on their Town of Saukville property would essentially dry up when the golf course would use its two shallow dolomite wells to keep the fairways and greens lush.

The Bells brought their complaint to town officials, and a test was ordered to see if shutting down the golf course's wells would have an affect on the family's water source.

The town got involved because the golf course has a conditional-use permit from the town to operate.

When the course wells weren't used, the family's water levels rebounded.

"The action showed great improvement of water flow at the Bells' well," Town Chairman Barb Jobs noted at the July Town Board meeting.

With those findings, town officials asked Town Attorney John DeStefanis to contact Terry Wakefield of John Taylor Golf Inc. to come up with a solution.

The town has asked the course owners to provide detailed water-use logs from the past two years. The conditional-use permit requires the course to provide water useage reports on at least a quarterly basis.

An initial request for water records was made in June.

If the owners refuse to provide the water logs, DeStefanis said the town would consider revoking its conditional-use permit for the course.

An e-mail response from Wakefield said he was in California on business much of last month, but promised to provide the records the town requested.

Jobs updated the Town Board on the issue Tuesday, saying the golf course owners complied with the records request.

"I haven't heard any more, so I presume it has been worked out," she said.