Village board members say agreement doesn't leave freedom of choice for businessmen

Independent contractors and construction companies don't have a choice who will haul off their trash if they're working inside the village limits of Brady.

With an entire year remaining on a two-year exclusive contract, village board members realize they are locked into current services by Schaben Sanitation.

But that's likely to change when the agreement expires next year.

"I was not on the board when this contract was signed," said trustee Troy Viter, who was appointed to the board last month. "I can assure you, though, it will be rectified."

The village's contract with Schaben clearly states that all sanitation business in Brady must be conducted with only that company. That includes all private residential and commercial or construction business.

"This contract is tight," said Schaben representative Jeff Westrick. "I have solid competition in Gothenburg and I didn't want to give my competitors an inch to get into this village."

The agreement with the village for residential service is not the issue, trustees told Westrick.

"The problem is this exclusive agreement means contractors here don't have a choice who they do business with," said trustee Jeff Miller.

The issue came to light when a Brady homeowner secured a large roll-off dumpster from Mike's

Sanitation of Gothenburg for a remodeling project.

The cost for the roll-off from Mike's was much cheaper than Schaben, said one of the project contractors Jeff Snyder.

But Schaben officials said the roll-off was a breech of the village contract.

Westrick offered to match or beat Mike's pricing when contacted directly by customers to satisfy immediate concerns.

"We're still going to have to do something with this contract," Viter said.

The contract runs through December 2010.

In other matters, Get-N-Go owner Jack Mann asked trustees to consider again waiving the fees associated with the store's liquor license.

Mann approached the board in June when he was preparing to reopen the store, asking for possible financial assistance by waiving the $200 liquor license and $200 occupancy tax fees.

Through village attorney Steve Vinton, trustees realized they could not waive the fees for one business without doing the same for the two others who have already paid liquor license fees.

Vinton said the village could vote to reduce or eliminate the occupancy tax but an ordinance change would be required.

Mann also told trustees the driveway to the store lies between two storm sewers and the concrete there has sunken below both drains.

“I would like that area leveled so my customers don’t have to drive through a lake to get to my store,” Mann said.

Trustees agreed to have the storm drains inspected to determine the underlying problem.

Mann also requested that the village do business with the store, especially for fuel.

Utilities superintendent Keith Wagnitz said he buys fuel at Brady One-Stop near the interstate because he saves significant money with a government discount.

Mann promised to be competitive and offer the same savings if possible.

In other business, village trustees:

- learned from utilities superintendent Keith Wagnitz that two needs surveys for water and sewer projects have been sent as part of grant applications to help pay for repairs to the sewage lagoons.
- heard from clerk Pam Diehl that assistant clerk Tina Golter has resigned.
- accepted the annual roads report from Carla O’Dell.
- passed a resolution establishing new fees for village building permits. Permits for a new home or business construction are based on total valuation while fence, sign and driveway permits are a flat $30. The previous permit fee was $50 regardless of the project.
- appointed Viter as vice chairman.
- chose to renew a pair of matured certificates of deposit for a three-month period rather than cashing them to pay off the Community Center loan. With the looming cost of sewage lagoon repairs, trustees felt keeping that money available now was the better option.
- discussed the possibility of hiring part-time temporary help for the utilities department.
- approved installation of Internet service for the utilities superintendent at the village shop through Internet USA.