

COMMUNITY

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WINDHAM

Residents exploring joint fire and EMS district

By Don Jovich
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WINDHAM — Further discussions about a proposed joint fire/EMS district continue, as village officials and residents plan to explore pros and cons of the issue.

At Thursday's village safety committee meeting, members unanimously passed a motion for the creation of an exploratory advisory committee on joint fire and EMS districts.

"Our goal is to better serve our communities," said village councilman Phil Snyder.

"We feel very strongly about it."

Village administrator Maurice Hankins was selected to chair the advisory committee and Snyder was selected as vice chair.

"Maurice has lived here most of his life and he's always been active in the community," Snyder said.

The Windham Fire Department serves both the village and township, although it is operated exclusively by the township, which handles the day-to-day operations, payroll, capital improvements and large equipment purchases.

The last operating agreement between the village and township expired in 2003.

Mayor C. James Moore said a joint district would allow fair representation for both parties which, he said, does not exist at this time.

Moore said it is in the best interests of all residents of Windham — township and village — and will be better able to provide the needs of fire protection for all of its residents.

"It has been nearly 37 months without village representation for our residents' tax dollars," he said.