

WINDHAM

Creation of fire district gains support

Proposed joint unit would serve
village and township residents

By **Don Jovich**
Record-Courier staff writer

WINDHAM — Mayor C. James Moore said the committee exploring the possibility of a joint fire district involving the village and Windham Township unanimously supports the idea.

A final vote by the committee on Thursday was unanimously in support of a joint fire district for Windham.

"We're trying to get this to the starting point," said Village Administrator Maurice Hankins. "The township has done a good job with the fire department but the village needs to have a say in how our tax dollars are spent."

Currently, the fire department serves both the village and the township but is run by the township, which handles day-to-day operations, payroll, capital improvements and large equipment purchases.

With the existing operating and equipment levies already in place, Moore said there would be no need to go to the voters for any additional funds.

"When the existing levies come up for renewal or replacement, they would be put on under the new joint fire district," he said.

Council President Scott Garrett said once the joint fire district is set up, both entities, the township and the village, would be on the same side.

"This would be something we've never had," he said. "A united front instead of a divided front."

By working together, Garrett said all parties would benefit from the joint fire district.

"It will serve every single citizen under the fire district," Hankins said. "Sharing what we have for the good of everybody."

Councilman Phil Snyder said he supports the joint fire district idea 100 percent.

"I want to make my community a better place to live and grow," he said.

The next joint fire district exploratory-advisory committee meeting is scheduled for 6:30 p.m. Monday in the Board of Education room at Windham High School.