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OPINION

OUR VIEW

In Windham

Modern firefighting very expensive;
 joint fire district a sensible approach

A willingness by the joint fire district exploratory-advisory committee to explore and advance the concept of both the village of Windham and Windham Township to have one fire district looks like a positive step.

Although some districts, especially in rural areas, are able to get by with volunteers that keep their operating costs minimal, those kinds of districts are becoming scarce as the public wants to be served by modern firefighting techniques, including emergency medical services.

That has made fire districts capital intensive operations requiring well-trained firefighters. The districts as a result have become extremely expensive,

and efforts by small political subdivisions to retain their own districts look increasingly like exercises in futility.

The village of Windham, more densely populated than Windham Township, has had difficulty persuading voters to increase the income tax, and that has made supporting a modern firefighting operation more difficult.

Sharing resources in emergencies, which most subdivisions do throughout Portage County, helps some, but it does not solve the problem of providing the public with up-to-date equipment and a highly-trained firefighting force.

Thus, the village and the township are on the right track in moving toward a merger.

ALONG THE WAY



**DON
 JOVICH**

So far, this has been a busy summer with many communities working hard to make Portage County an even better place to live and work.

In Windham, Mayor C. James Moore continues working with an advisory committee for a joint fire district.

At their most recent meeting, guest speaker David Comstock spoke about the idea of a joint fire district with Windham Township, which he highly recommended.

Comstock is the fire chief of the Western Reserve Joint Fire District and is also the legal counsel for the Newton Falls Fire District.

"The township and the village need to create a joint fire district which will benefit both entities," he said. "These people truly want what's best for the fire department."

Moore said he hopes to have a report ready by the this week's Village Council meeting.