

COMMUNITY

PHONE: (330) 296-9657 • FAX: (330) 296-2698

WINDHAM

Trustees weigh joint district

Panel makes pitch to township

By Don Jovich
Record-Courier staff writer

WINDHAM — The idea of a potential joint fire district between the township and village continues to evolve, with legal and financial issues needing to be addressed.

At Thursday's trustees meeting, several members of the joint fire district exploratory advisory committee and village officials addressed the trustees about coming together for the benefit of the Windham community.

"When we first started the joint fire district board, our primary concern was financial," said village administrator Maurice Hankins.

Trustee Dan Timmons said they were awaiting a legal opinion from attorney Mark Finamore before making any determinations.

"We're going through the decision-making process," he said. "In the meantime, we have to operate."

Timmons said he expects to have Finamore's legal opinion by the next trustees meeting.

"There's still a lot of unanswered questions," he said.

Council Robert Donham said he would like to see a long-term solution between the two political subdivisions versus entering into another two-year operating agreement.

"It doesn't work out very well," he said.

Timmons said the trustees are investigating the idea of a joint fire district and have some valid concerns.

"We could end up with the same service at a higher cost for township voters," he said.

Another issue discussed was determining how to transfer funds from the existing equipment and operating levies into a newly-formed joint fire district.

"It (potential joint fire district) would have to be legal and financially sound," Timmons said.