

COMMUNITY

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WINDHAM

Township, village seek fire district legal opinion

By Don Jovich
Record-Courier staff writer

WINDHAM — The debate over a proposed joint fire district is heating up after both sides have decided to seek legal opinions from experts in the field.

At the last Village Council meeting, officials unanimously voted to retain the legal services of attorney David "Chip" Comstock who is well-qualified in the process of forming joint fire districts.

Comstock is a 20-year veteran of the fire service and is currently the chief of the Western Reserve Joint Fire District in Poland, Ohio.

"We're going to pursue legal action, if necessary, on all

issues pertaining to any proposed or existing fire district," said Mayor C. James Moore.

Council president Scott Garrett said the village needs to know where it stands in regards to forming a joint fire district.

"It's in our best interest," he said.

In Windham Township, trustees are working with attorney Mark Finamore, another expert on the topic of joint fire districts.

Trustee Dan Timmons said they were awaiting a legal recommendation from Finamore before making any final decisions.

"We're going through the decision-making process," he said.

Timmons said there were

several legal and financial questions he would like to see addressed before coming to any conclusions.

Councilman Phil Snyder said their expectations are to have a resolution forming the Joint Fire District agreed to and signed not later than Nov. 1.

If approved, Snyder said the new joint fire district and its new board members would start on Jan. 1, 2008.

"Village council believes that there is no other choice but to pursue this opinion," he said.

In related news, the village Web site, www.windhamvillage.com, has a complete list of documentation and related articles pertaining to the Windham joint fire district study.