

COMMUNITY

WINDHAM

Officials consider joint fire district

By Don Jovich
Record-Courier staff writer

WINDHAM — The debate over a proposed joint fire district continues with both sides seeking legal advice on how to move forward.

Township trustees and several village officials met Thursday at Windham Town Hall to see where the issue stands.

"As a board, we are researching the issue," said Trustee Chairman Dan Timmons.

He said the only way the township would consent to the idea would be to ensure residents that the cost of maintaining the fire department would not increase and the level of service township residents receive would not decrease.

"At this point, we're not convinced this will happen," Timmons said.

He said they are awaiting a legal opinion before proceeding any further.

The trustees are working

with attorney Mark Finamore, who is forming a legal opinion for the township on the possibility of forming the proposed joint fire district.

Village Council has retained the legal services of attorney David "Chip" Comstock, who also is well-qualified in the process of forming joint fire districts.

Timmons said he would like to see the attorneys from both sides work together on a joint statement that could be shared with residents.

"We're not blowing this off," he said. "We're working on it and taking it seriously."

Village Mayor C. James Moore said he remains hopeful that the two sides can come together for the betterment of the Windham community.

Village Councilman Phil Snyder said the exploratory advisory committee findings show a joint fire district would run more efficiently and more cost effectively.