

COMMUNITY

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WINDHAM

Legal action weighed on fire district

Plans to go to court after township ends negotiations

By **Don Jovich**
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WINDHAM — After hearing the township's decision to end further talks about a joint fire district, the village plans to go to court.

On Thursday, Village Council discussed possible litigation to determine the village's rights regarding the fire department.

"The village felt a need to hire our own legal counsel, David Comstock, to check our legal position," said Mayor C. James Moore.

The resolution approved Thursday states the village believes that the current operation of the Windham Township Fire District is illegal and that "legal action is necessary to judicially declare the rights of the parties and to limit the action that the township can take with respect to collecting taxes or billing residents of the village."

On Nov. 1, the township trustees voted to reject a recommendation from the

Joint Fire District Advisory Committee and to stop any further meetings regarding a joint fire district.

Trustee Dan Timmons said since the 1960s, there has been an agreement that the fire department would provide service to the village.

"We didn't see the need to recreate another fire district," he said.

Comstock said he is in the process of formulating a legal complaint which will be filed with the Portage County Court of Common Pleas.

In other village news, council voted to allow the mayor to enter into an agreement with the Ohio Army National Guard to provide fire and emergency services from the fire department.

The resolution states that the increased utilization of the Ravenna Arsenal property near the village necessitates the need for adequate fire and emergency medical services.