

Legal team to help in dispute

DELTA - Village council hired a legal team this week to represent it in a dispute it expects over ownership of fire equipment as it discusses creating a fire district.

Council hired David Zoll at a rate of \$175 an hour and Michelle Kranz at \$150 an hour with a 5-0 vote after emerging from a meeting closed to the public. Councilman Dan Miller was absent.

The fire equipment in question is titled to York Township, but the village contributed 30 percent of the purchase price, Swancreek Township 25 percent, Pike Township 10 percent, and Fulton Township 5 percent, village administrator Gary Baker said.

Village council had unanimously voted in December to terminate its contract with York Township for fire services at the end of this year.

Village leaders want to form a fire district - that would perhaps include the village of Swanton, Swan Creek Township, or York Township - and would have its own governing board and taxing authority.

York Township trustees have been in charge of the combined village and township fire and rescue department for a year. Previously the township and village had a shared agreement for overseeing the emergency services. They have worked together for decades.

Also this week, council voted 4-1 to allow Dick Kleck to use plastic water pipe instead of the required copper for a truck stop he is building at the southeast corner of State Rt. 109 and County Road H.

Councilman Harold Schondel cast the dissenting vote, saying exceptions should not be made. It was unclear why rules call for copper pipe.

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