

Forget these lessons

Editor of The Register Citizen:

Mayor William McCabe revealed much in the hallway of Town Hall after the special selectmen's meeting of Jan. 28. In an unprofessional and uninformed tirade the mayor demonstrated how uncomfortable he is when citizens openly challenge his authority and expose the board's shenanigans.

First, he stated that the former town manager did not meet the residency requirements by having an apartment in town, and, in a stunning revelation, that this was a basis for his removal. Then the mayor said that he was confused about the definition of the term "residency." He evidently did not remember that the board had received an opinion from the town attorney on the residency question and that the board voted in June 1991 that the town manager's renting of an apartment in town was sufficient.

Second, the mayor took obvious pleasure in shouting that the lawsuit had been "lost." He supported his view with the court decision and the outrageous comment that obtaining an injunction is "easy."

The court made it clear when it granted the injunction that there were important questions regarding the shared legislative authority of the town meeting/selectmen form of government which required review.

Furthermore, if the mayor carefully read the court decision he would not be so confident that the lawsuit was "lost." In question was the ability of the town meeting to participate in the removal of a town manager. The court wrote, "The court leaves to the citizens the ability to assess whether or not the Board of Selectmen should retain the right to terminate the town manager as this charter does. That power remains with the people of the town of Winchester."