News Briefs

Ordinances on way to adoption

WINSTED — Selectmen took steps to adopt two new ordinances Monday.

The board voted to publish ordinances to ban polystyrene foam and to impose a fine for excessive false fire alarms. Publising the ordinances in legal notices in newspapers is necessary as part of the adoption process.

Selectmen were prepared to adopt a previous polystyrene ban despite the state law; however, the board waffled after it learned the local ban could be in violation of the town charter. Local ordinances must comply with state law.

Town Attorney Steven O. Allaire and LaVoie reworked the ordinance, and the latest proposal takes into account certain loopholes in the state's legislation, LaVoie said.

The ban will prohibit the use of polystyrene foam by restaurants and food vendors in town.

The Board of Selectmen also plans to repeal a previous fire alarm ordinance and enact a new one imposing a $100 fine after three false alarms in six months. The alarm ordinance was enacted in 1988 by a previous Board of Selectmen. The new ordinance changes the wording of the previous one, designating the fire marshal as the enforcement officer for the ordinance. The ordinance does not apply to municipal buildings or schools used by the town.