

Winsted

'Freedom' complaint filed over cost of police meeting

By JOSEPH A. O'BRIEN
Conant Staff Writer

WINSTED — A Freedom of Information complaint has been filed on behalf of a former Winsted police dispatcher who failed in her attempt to learn the costs for a special April meeting of police officers called by the town manager.

Charlene LaVoie, the town's community lawyer — hired by the Shafeek Nader Trust to be an advocate for residents — has filed the complaint with the state FOI commission on behalf of Francesca Gaumont, who retired three years ago after 12 years as Winsted's police dispatcher.

Gaumont wants to know the cost of a meeting of officers called by Town Manager Wayne W. Dove April 23 to discuss possible police union concessions to reduce police budget costs.

The 8 a.m. meeting in the central firehouse was attended by

officers, Dove, Police Chief Joseph M. Ligi and Democratic selectman Brian W. Sullivan.

Gaumont said she believes the meeting cost the town more than \$1,000 because of overtime and comp time for police officers.

She said Henry L. Centrella, town finance director, told her the overtime cost for the meeting would be more than \$800. But she also expects there will be compensatory time costs.

Centrella turned her request for information over to Dove, who wrote to Gaumont on April 30 saying he had contacted the FOI Commission to determine if the meeting qualified as staff meeting, which is not public.

LaVoie's May 16 letter to the FOI commission said Dove had assured her "relevant documents were being gathered and would be made available" to Gaumont on May 13, but had not been received when the letter was written.