Dove target of FOI action

5/31/91

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WINSTED — A resident has filed a complaint with the state Freedom of Information Commission against Town Manager Wayne Dove because he failed to provide her with information.

Community lawyer Charlene LaVoie filed the complaint with the commission on behalf of Francesca Gaumont May 16.

Gaumont asked Finance Director Henry L. Centrella to give her information on how much it cost to hold an April 23 meeting between police, Dove, Selectman Brian W. Sullivan and Police Chief Joseph M. Ligi. The meeting was called after a series of grievances were filed by police and the department was experiencing some internal problems. After a couple of days, police came out with a plan to take furloughs without pay to help the town save money.

The meeting was mandatory for police and some received overtime for attending.

According to Dove, Centrella told Gaumont it cost about $800 for overtime. Centrella gave Dove the letter for response. Dove wrote Gaumont that the meeting between staff is not considered a public meeting. Also, Dove wrote that Gaumont was not specific about what public records she wanted to examine.

"All I asked (Dove) was the cost to hold that meeting, and I could not get it out of him," she said. Gaumont said that she thinks the meeting may have cost as much as $1,000.

Dove instead invited Gaumont in to talk about the meeting and the cost/benefit relationship.

According to the complaint, LaVoie then wrote to Dove May 3 on Gaumont's behalf for the documents. "The Town Manager assured me on May 10, 1991 that the relevant documents were being gathered and would be made available to Ms. Gaumont on May 13, 1991," LaVoie's complaint read. However, as of May 16, no documentation had been received.