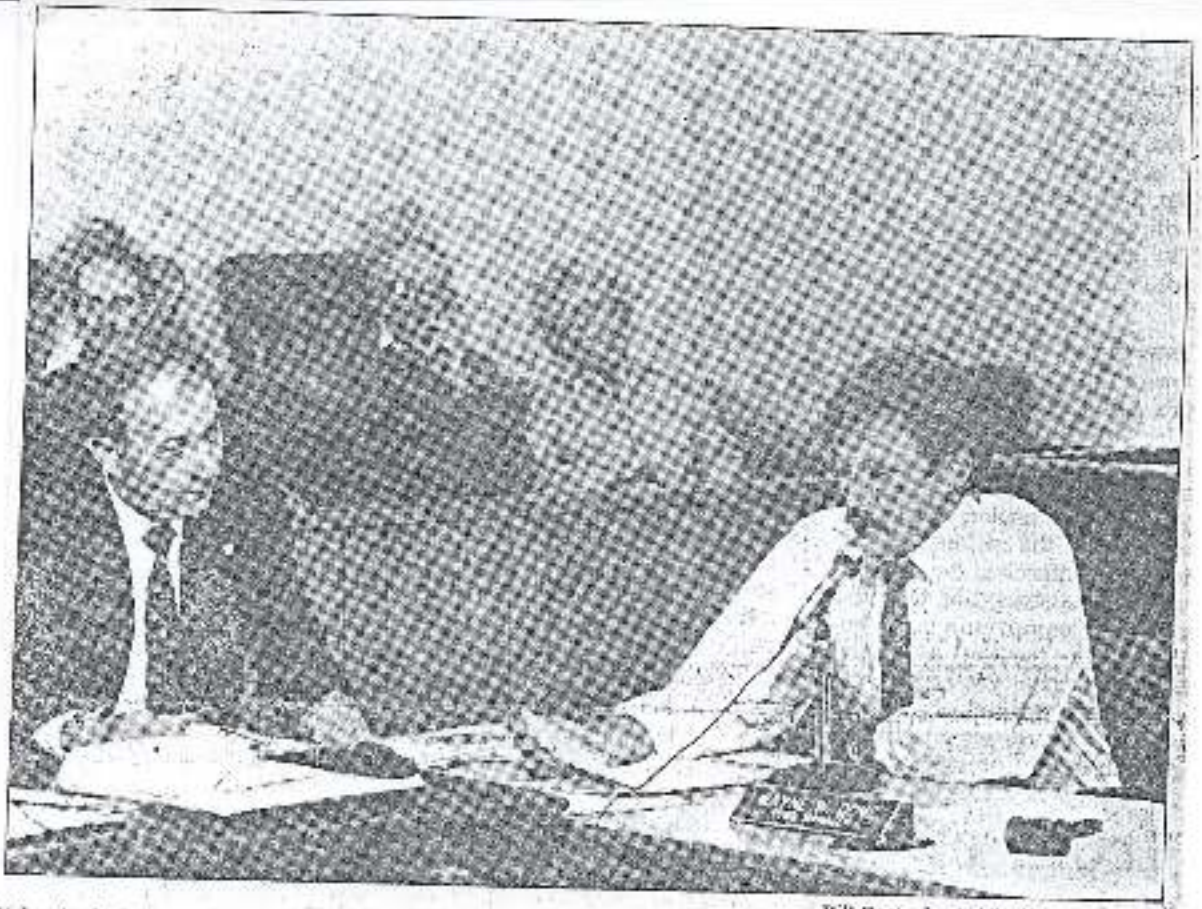


Bill Bastenbeck / Staff Photographer

Winsted Town Manager Wayne W. Dove, right, gives his report to the Board of Selectmen last night before the panel voted to fire him. At left is Republican Selectman Francis J. O'Neill Jr., who voted with the 4-3 majority in dousing Dove.

11-19-91

Dove out in Winsted

By JEDD GOULD
Register Citizen Staff

WINSTED — Town Manager Wayne W. Dove was fired last night by a 4-3 vote of the Board of Selectmen in a rowdy meeting attended by more than 150 spectators who hooted and hollered and demanded to know exactly what Dove had done to lose his job.

Mayor William H. McCabe outlined three reasons for firing the town manager: a lack of confidence in his administrative skills, a lack of confidence in his ability to communicate with board members and a determination that his firing would be in the best interest of the town.

Those reasons were greeted by a chorus of shouts from the audience demanding the real reasons. Members of the audience who spoke calmly in favor of Dove during the two-hour public comment section of the meeting were screaming by the time McCabe presented his motion to dismiss Dove.

McCabe and selectmen Francis J. O'Neill Jr., James A. Pettit and Nancy P. Rabbal all voted in favor of the motion to fire Dove. Selectmen John F. Gauger Jr., Brian W. Sullivan and Walter D. Miller all supported Dove.

Although McCabe's original motion had Dove keeping his job until Dec. 31, the board approved a second motion that suspends Dove as of today. The board appointed Town Clerk William T. Riiska to fill Dove's position until an interim manager can be found.

Dove remained silent through the whole evening. He made no comment during the meeting and showed no emotion at the words of his critics or supporters. After it was over, he only would say: "I am tired, I am going home.

"This is a cut deal and the deal was to blow Wayne Dove out," Miller shouted after it was apparent that the vote was going against Dove.

The four selectmen who opposed Dove were silent in the face of the crowd's anger. When Pettit took the microphone in an effort to calm things down he was greeted with shouts of "here goes a turncoat" and then forced to cut his speech short by the unsympathetic audience.

It was after Pettit faltered that the crowd grew more angry. Charlene LaVoie, the community lawyer, demanded specifics on why Dove was

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