Board fires Dove

(Continued from page 1)

fired.

Her shouts were echoed by others in the audience and then by members of the board.

"Jimmy give me a reason! Nancy give me a reason!" Gauger shouted. "This is an open meeting. We are going to put it in front of the public, we are going to tell them. Here they are, tell them," Gauger said.

Habbal and Pettit were silent.

In response to requests that he be more specific, McCabe answered only that he believed the reasoning he gave was sufficient.

Miller charged one of his fellow Democrats with exchanging her vote against Dove for a political payback. His accusation that Habbal promised to vote against Dove in return for McCabe's support of Mark Svonkin as town attorney caused a volatile reaction from an already rowdy crowd.

Svonkin was hired by the board as town attorney earlier in the evening at a rate of $90 an hour, $35 more an hour than he is currently receiving from the town.

Sullivan also claimed that O'Neill voted against Dove in retaliation for Dove's opposition to the retirement package he received from the police force earlier this year.

The vote was preceded by nearly two hours of public comment.

The meeting started at 7 p.m. in town hall and had to be adjourned to The Gilbert School to accommodate the large crowd that had packed into the upstairs courtroom.

McCabe's effort to limit the public forum section of the meeting were quashed by Gauger, who maintained the charter allows for unlimited opportunity for the public to comment.

There were only two people in two hours who came out solidly against Dove. The rest of the people spoke of him as a professional who had the best interest of the town at heart and had done a good job.

Some were so bitter they said they would have never voted for the selectmen if they knew they were going after Dove.

"If we could take back our votes right now we would," resident Ruth Wheeler said.

"If this issue had come up before the election I venture to say we would have had a different board sitting where you people are right now," Robert McCarthy said.

Dove first found out his job was in jeopardy only nine days after the election when newly elected Mayor McCabe told him that he no longer had the support of the majority of the board and asked him to resign.

His refusal forced last night's vote. Town charter allows for a public hearing if one is requested by the town manager.

A public hearing on Dove's firing is scheduled for Dec. 3 at 7 p.m. in the town hall. Although people can speak, their opinion has no effect upon the vote taken by selectmen.