

The new Republican mayor, William H. McCabe, moved to fire Dove, and was seconded by Democratic Selectman James A. Pettit. Democrat Nancy Peters Habbal and Republican Francis J. O'Neill, Jr. also voted to fire Dove.

McCabe cited a lack of confidence in Dove, and belief that effective communications could not be re-established between Dove and the selectmen, that Dove could not implement policies of the board, and that Dove's removal was in the best interest of the town.

Democratic Selectman Brian W. Sullivan and several people in the audience argued that O'Neill would have a conflict of interest if he voted on Dove's removal. It was the first full selectmen's meeting for O'Neill, who was elected Nov. 5.

O'Neill, a former police captain, had battled with Dove over his retirement benefits before O'Neill retired July 1.

Sullivan voted against Dove's dismissal. He was joined by Democrats Walter D. Miller and John F. Gauger Jr. The three asked for specific reasons for Dove's removal, but got no answers.

"This stinks," Gauger said.

"There was a deal cut," shouted Miller.

He charged that removing Dove was part of a deal that resulted in McCabe being named mayor despite a 5-2 Democratic majority of selectmen. Habbal and Pettit had joined O'Neill and McCabe in voting to name McCabe mayor the morning after the election.

Charlene LaVoie, the community lawyer hired under the Shafcock Nader Trust to represent the interests of residents, told the selectmen who favored firing Dove "the roar of the crowd is trying to send you a message."

Many people who spoke in Dove's behalf questioned why he is being removed when there was no indication that selectmen were displeased with his work before the election. Six of seven selectmen were returned to office in the election.

After the meeting, resident Alan R. DiCura said he would immediately begin circulating petitions seeking to recall the selectmen who fired Dove.

In other business Monday, selectmen also voted 4-3 to name Mark Syonkin town attorney. He will be paid \$90 per hour.