

Bitterness lingers over Winsted manager firing

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Miller said it would be more constructive for the whole town if all board members, himself included, resigned and put themselves up for another election. Another selectman said he will protest the vote on the basis that O'Neill was prejudiced and should not have participated.

Sullivan said he will file a protest with the Ethics Commission against O'Neill. His complaint will focus on a case contesting O'Neill's retirement package now

pending in Litchfield Superior Court. O'Neill was a captain in the police department who got money from the town to retire.

The case argues that the board acted in violation of the town charter by not honoring a petition requesting a referendum on the issue.

O'Neill and Dove clashed over the affair, with Dove strongly opposed to granting the retirement package.

By voting on the employment of Dove, who could potentially be

called to testify in the court case, O'Neill prejudiced himself, Sullivan claimed.

If O'Neill had abstained, the motion to fire Dove would not have passed.

Other residents are investigating the possibility of passing around a petition in support of Dove that would be presented at his public hearing scheduled for Dec. 3.

Although the town charter states that a public hearing can be held, it does not state that the

selectmen need to listen to what is said.

Pellet is one selectman who said a petition with any number of signatures will not change his vote.

"I still believe in my heart I did the right thing; that I voted in the best interest of the community for the long term."

Pellet said the board expects to appoint an interim town manager within a week. Town Clerk William T. Ruskka has been appointed to fill Dove's position until an interim manager can be found.