

Winsted citizens trying to fix government 'crisis'

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WINSTED — A determined group of 120 residents, drawn together by their anger over the firing of the town manager last week and dissatisfaction over the reasons given, spent yesterday afternoon talking about the best way to make the Board of Selectmen understand their feelings.

Anger caused the birth of a citizens group that met yesterday. The group is known as the Citizens Coalition for Open Government.

The firing of Town Manager Wayne W. Dove by a 4-3 vote of the Board of Selectmen last Monday despite the protests of more than 140 residents who attended the meeting, has put Winsted in a "crisis" situation, Selectman Brian W. Sullivan, who

voted in favor of Dove, said yesterday.

The crisis the town is in, according to several of yesterday's speakers, is that less than three weeks after the selectmen were elected they are taking actions seemingly without respect for what the citizens want and without even telling them why.

The vote to fire Dove was accompanied by two relatively

vague resolutions stating that the manager had lost his ability to establish effective communications with members of the board and execute the policies of the board.

Last Monday the presentation of their reasonings made the crowd furious, forcing the selectmen to conduct their business over shouts of "tell us why."

"The people were clearly stat-

ing that they were looking for reasons why this was happening," Community Lawyer Charlene LaVoie said yesterday. "And, instead of reasons, we were getting conclusions."

"And the conclusions were arising from a set of facts that were not ever explained to us," she said.