

Crisis activates citizens

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LaVoie went on to question whether the selectmen were making decisions to satisfy their own secret agenda and not the will of the people.

Without elected representatives willing to respond, LaVoie went on to urge people to sign a petition asking the board members to rescind their vote to fire Dove. She hopes to present selectmen with 2,500 signatures, roughly 41 percent of town's registered voters, protesting their action.

"If this board is going to ignore the public opinion then I would like to see them ignore it with 2,500 signatures in front of them," she said.

The targets of the crowd's anger were the four selectmen, who yesterday were commonly referred to as the "Gang of Four" and the "Fab Four," who voted to fire Dove — Nancy P. Habbal, James A. Pettit, Francis J. O'Neill Jr. and Mayor William H. McCabe. McCabe was the only one to attend yesterday's meeting, but he did not comment.

Yesterday, Sullivan suggested that residents stop paying their taxes until the selectmen change their vote.

"We control the purse strings," he said. "What would they do if we just refuse to pay our taxes?"

A second petition circulated yesterday asked people to support writing a recall provision for the town's charter that would make it possible to have the four kicked

out of office.

But while that promises to be a long legal struggle one resident offered a more direct plan.

"If we can't do anything to get these people out legally the only thing we can do is put pressure on them," resident Norman Newfield said.

Newfield not only asked people to gather signatures for the petition but pleaded with them to personally call the four to register their dissatisfaction.

And after calling personally he urged them to have their friends and neighbors do the same.

At the conclusion of the meeting a list with the home and office phone numbers of the four was handed out to make the task easier.

Newfield also recommended that the group request a written statement from each selectman and from both political town committees concerning their positions on the Dove firing.

But perhaps most importantly Newfield asked everyone to attend the Dec. 3 hearing scheduled with selectmen to discuss Dove's dismissal.

Dove greeted many members of the crowd yesterday as they left the auditorium, saying the past week has been "tough" but the support was encouraging.

"The best part about this whole thing is really that the people are becoming very involved in their town government," he said.

Town manager firing playing again

WINSTED — The Citizens Coalition for Open Government is sponsoring a rebroadcast of the Nov. 13 Board of Selectmen's meeting, at which Town Manager Wayne W. Dove was fired, today at 6 p.m. on Mad River Television, channel 13.

Viewers will be asked to call in after to register their opinions about the meeting.