About 300 support Dove as he defends his job

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By JEDD GOULD
Register Citizen Staff

WINSTED — About 300 town residents attempted to convince the four selectmen who fired Town Manager Wayne W. Dove to change their minds in a resounding display of support last night.

To prove their point, Dove supporters presented a petition last night at a public hearing on Dove's firing at Isabelle M. Pearson School. The petition, signed by 1,600 people, requested selectmen to rescind the vote they took on Nov. 18 to fire Dove by the end of the year.

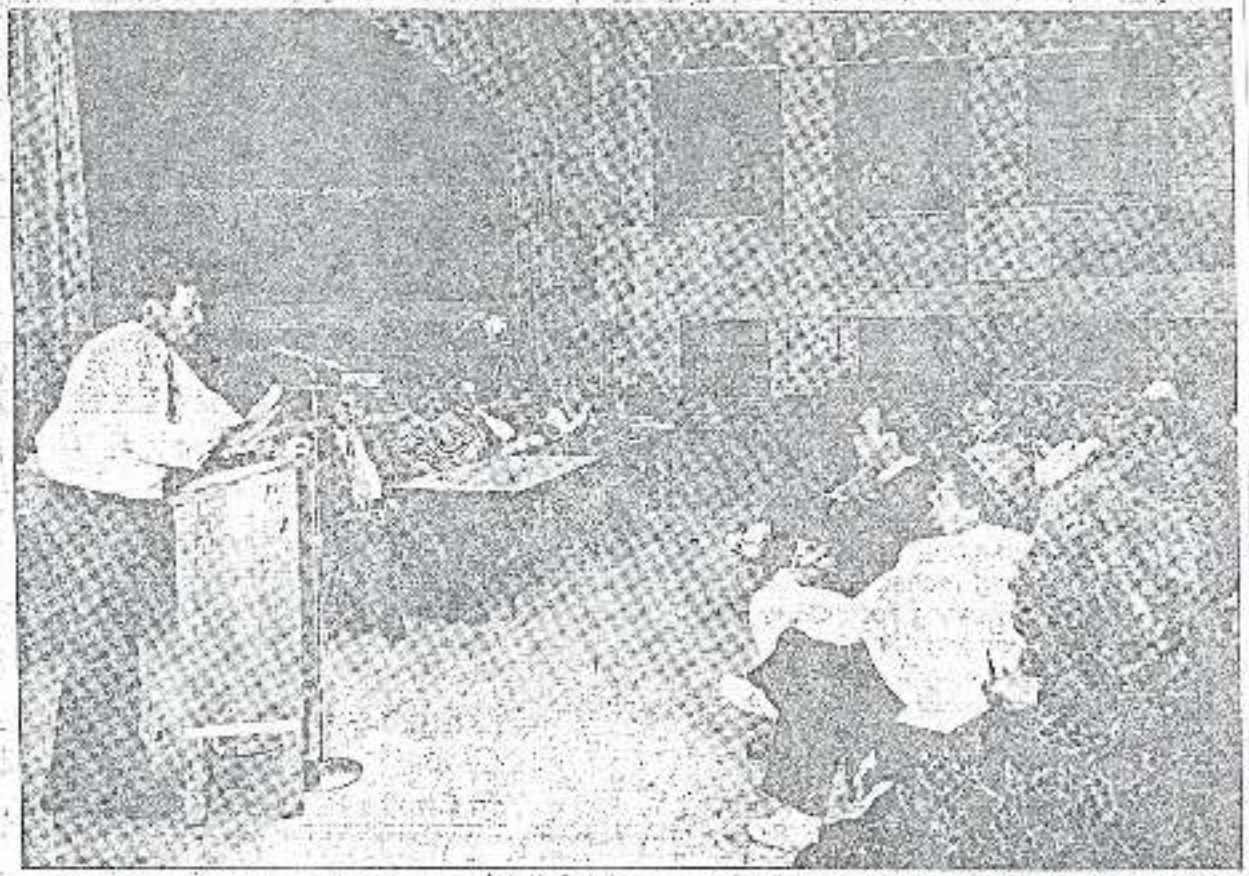
The Board of Selectmen will meet to take a final vote on Dove's firing at 7 p.m. in the town hall courtroom. The vote on Dove's employment is the only issue on the agenda.

The vote will take place tonight despite requests from two selectmen and Dove that the vote take place immediately following last night's hearing.

Dove was given the first word at the hearing, breaking a public silence he has maintained since he lost his job.

As he walked to the podium, he

See DOVE, page 12



Bill Ballenbock / Staff Photographer

Suspended Winsted Town Manager Wayne W. Dove addresses a crowd of supporters during a public hearing last night at the Isabelle M. Pearson School. The Board of Selectmen will vote again on Dove's dismissal tonight at town hall.