

te on dismissal of town manager

was supposed to take place Wednesday.

McCabe said the granting of the restraining order was "disappointing" because it postpones the decision on Dove's fate, which he says is bad for the town and for Dove.

But Dove's lawyer, Dennis A. Santore of Torrington, said this court challenge could be good for his client. Santore said Dove's contention is that the selectmen were wrong in their actions, and he doesn't really care how that wrong is righted.

"This is just a different avenue of addressing the wrong," said Santore, adding that he is prepared to file civil suits against the selectmen if Dove is eventually fired.

The petition submitted by LaVoie specifically asks for a referendum on the selectmen's first resolution to

fire Dove. LaVoie said the town charter states that residents share legislative responsibilities with the board of selectmen.

LaVoie said she filed the court action Wednesday on behalf of residents Ruth Wheeler and Andrea Kelsey.

Dove got his \$58,000-a-year job running Winsted on Dec. 17, 1990, after an extensive town manager search was dropped suddenly. Supporters say he's kept taxes from increasing and brought a new professionalism to the job while critics say he has no experience in municipal management and plays politics.

But the selectmen who voted to fire Dove have refused to discuss him, saying only they've lost confidence in him and his ability to carry out board policies.

Dove was not available for comment Wednesday.