

Dove's rehiring proposed

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WINSTED — Two selectmen want to rehire Town Manager Wayne Dove today so the town can avoid a court battle scheduled to start Monday.

Democratic Selectmen Brian W. Sullivan and Walter D. Miller have called a special board meeting for tonight to vote on reversing Dove's Nov. 10 firing.

A Superior Court hearing is scheduled for Monday on whether Dove's future should be decided by public referendum or by the selectmen alone.

The hearing was scheduled Wednesday when Charlene LaVoie, a lawyer in town, was granted a temporary restraining order preventing selectmen from going forward with Dove's dismissal.

"If this goes to court, we'd be spending a great deal of money to defend ourselves against taxpayers," Sullivan said. "We should be working with taxpayers, not against them."

Sullivan said if Dove's firing is not reversed, he will try to convince the board to allow the referendum on Dove and get the court case dropped.

But at least two selectmen, Republican Mayor William H. McCabe and Nancy Peters Habbal, think the court action challenges the selectmen's power to run the town and want to see a judge decide it.

"Dove is not the issue anymore, the issue is how our town is governed," Habbal said. "If the court decides people can vote on a firing, then the validity of our charter is at stake."