

But LaVoie and Sullivan both argue that the legal challenge does not mean residents will try to be involved with every hiring and firing in town. In the case of Dove, they say, people are upset because they thought he was being treated unfairly and that residents' wishes were being ignored.

That's why they want a referendum, LaVoie said. The referendum would be on the selectmen's declaration of their intent to fire Dove, not on the firing itself. Selectmen would have to vote one more time to make the dismissal final.

Also on the agenda for tonight's special meeting is an executive session to discuss the legal challenge, and discussion on appointing an acting town manager to run the town until a permanent manager is hired.

Town Clerk William A. Riiska was appointed acting town manager Nov. 18, but Finance Director Henry Centrella was named to replace him Thursday when Riiska went into the hospital for tests.

McCabe said it is possible that a new acting town manager will be appointed tonight. The meeting is scheduled for 7 in town hall.