

or court hearing on Dove

town act in accordance with its charter?" LaVoie said yesterday after the hearing.

The charter states that the Board of Selectmen must take two votes to fire a town manager; the first states an intention to fire and the second finishes the task.

Selectmen have already passed a 4-3 motion of intent to fire Dove by the end of the year. But hours before they were prepared to turn intention into reality last week, LaVoie filed for and received an injunction from Dranginis stopping any vote on termination of the town manager.

LaVoie submitted a petition signed by 330 residents requesting

a referendum challenging the selectmen's vote of intention.

Although the town charter states the Board of Selectmen's authority to fire a town manager cannot be questioned in a town meeting, it does not have the same stipulation on a vote of intention.

To LaVoie that means the citizens can vote on firing Dove. But Svonkin argues that it was the intention of the town charter to remove citizen participation from the arena of personnel issues and, especially, the employment of the town manager.

The expert witnesses Svonkin mentioned in court — former

Charter Revision Commission Chairman Marie Kamens, former Charter Revision Commission member and Town Clerk William T. Riiska and former Town Attorney Stephen O. Allaire — may be able to offer testimony that the charter was not designed to give the opportunity to question the Board of Selectmen on employment of the town manager.

"What (Svonkin) is trying to do is put on a dog and pony show at the expense of taxpayers," LaVoie said.

One selectman, Brian W. Sullivan, took issue with the word

See DOVE, page 15

Dove hearing delayed

(Continued from page 13)

"expert" in describing the people Svonkin named. "The people he named have all been politically active in this town and in other towns and I can't see how they would help the process at all," Sullivan said.

But Svonkin steadfastly defends his contention that this is more a question of interpretation of the charter than of Dove's employment.

If Dranginis rules that there can be a referendum then Svonkin believes that Winsted's form of government will effectively have been changed from a town manager form to a mayoral configuration.

No longer would the town manager be answerable to the selectmen but to the people, he argues.

"This has become a bigger issue than Wayne Dove," Svonkin said.

Of the 15 Winsted residents who

showed up at yesterday's half-hour hearing, many were Dove supporters who were in the odd situation of hoping their town would lose.

"If I win then I am going to be very upset," Selectman Walter D. Miller, a supporter of Dove and LaVoie's said yesterday.

Mayor William H. McCabe said yesterday that while he was glad a continuance had been granted he was sorry to see the issue drag on.

Although McCabe said there have been many requests from qualified town managers on a potential job opening, he said yesterday he would not hire a new employee to replace Dove on even an interim basis until the conclusion of LaVoie's lawsuit. Currently Riiska is serving as acting town manager.

Dove, who attended the hearing, said the extension was "trying." And said he "looked forward to the court ruling on the matter."