

Miller, LaVoie ^{4/3/92} must think Winsted has money to burn

In Winsted our police department is being foolishly asked to cut from a skeleton crew of three officers per shift patrolling our town at a time to two in order to save money.

Necessary water life-saving equipment is being donated to our public service/life saving volunteers by members of the community as town officials say we can't afford it.

Fire truck purchases have been postponed (while the price of these units increases 20 percent annually) in order to maintain a zero mill tax increase.

The education of our children is threatened year after year in an effort to control spiraling costs.

In spite of being intimately familiar with all this, Walt Miller and Charlene (I'll sue the town) LaVoie want the state attorney general to initiate an action against our community over fire inspections. Apparently Mr. Miller and our community lawyer believe Winchester can afford to defend lawsuits and possibly pay fines imposed by state authorities while the items mentioned above go wanting.

Even the editor of The Register Citizen got in on this dog and pony show by insinuating that the fire inspection problem could be solved by simply transferring funds from one departmental account to another. For the short term a fund transfer might help but it's not a long term solution. Remember, the budgets of all city departments are lean.

Public safety costs money. When a community skimps on necessary expenses for manpower and equipment the public pays twice. Once by doing without necessary services and then twice by paying more for it later.

Walter and Charlene have a history of taking different positions on the same bandwagon. The trouble with that activity is that one tends to forget what was said each time the band plays a different tune. We must remember that the "saluted" Wayne Dove was instructed to come up with a budget reflecting a zero mill increase. He succeeded and our selectmen, including Mr. Miller, approved a budget which dictated major changes in the fire marshal's duties. We saved money then. It's time to pay the piper now.

Tim Moran
Winsted