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Winsted news notes

Register Citizen

Suit on captain's pay still not decided

Charlene LaVoie, the town's community lawyer hired by the Shaffeck Nader Trust, told selectmen Monday night that the main part of a lawsuit against the town over a police captain's severance pay is not yet settled.

LaVoie represents resident Pat Mills in a lawsuit against the town over payment last summer of $14,430 in severance pay to retiring Police Capt. Francis J. O'Neill Jr. A petition had been filed to force the issue to a town meeting decision, but the payment was made anyway.

O'Neill, an unaffiliated voter, retired from the police department last July and was elected a selectman on the Republican slate in November.

LaVoie told selectmen Monday night that although part of the suit in Litchfield Superior Court has been dismissed, the part relating to the severance payment to O'Neill despite the town meeting petition has not yet been decided.

"The second part of the case is not dismissed," she said. "The [town] charter gives the people the right to challenge that resolution."

Mills told selectmen, "I have the right to challenge the municipal government."