

Maynard releases contract proposal

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WINSTED — Town Manager David A. Maynard yesterday released a copy of his one-page employment contract proposal to the press and the public.

Maynard declined to say specifically why he released the document yesterday. In a written statement he stated, "It is my concern, and my personal choice, not to permit an ongoing challenge to my credibility at a point in time when I must be able to publicly address significant public issues."

On Saturday, Maynard will bring a multi-million dollar capital improvement proposal to a town meeting. The meeting begins at 9 a.m. in the Isabelle M. Pearson School.

Maynard's contract proposal, for the most part, follows provisions in the town personnel code. The only exception is it gives Maynard three weeks vacation, instead of the two weeks allowed new employees.

Regardless of its contents, Maynard said it is unlikely the contract will be accepted by some members of the community.

"The problem is they're not

criticizing the contract, they're criticizing the fact I'm not Wayne Dove," Maynard said, referring to the former town manager who was fired in a storm of controversy in late 1991.

Community Lawyer Charlene LaVoie had requested a copy of Maynard's contract under the Freedom of Information Act on Tuesday. Yesterday she received a letter from Maynard declining to release the contract, and subsequently filed a complaint with the Freedom of Information Commission.

Maynard said he believes that, under the Freedom of Information Act, he did not have to release the proposal to the public. Although he did seek an advisory opinion from the state FOI commission, he said he had not received any information from that panel.

LaVoie yesterday said the proposal appeared to be acceptable. The latest draft, dated Jan. 19, is much different than the first four drafts.

"It's a half-page document, which only repeats two charter provisions," LaVoie said. "Otherwise it doesn't have any provi-

See MAYNARD, page 16

Maynard releases contract, but declines to explain why

(Continued from page 13)

sions that seem to violate the charter, such as a severance agreement in disguise. It doesn't seem to provide for any extraordinary compensation, which is prohibited by charter."

She said she was surprised Maynard did not release the document earlier because it does not fall under the FOI standards for privacy.

Maynard has been in office for seven months, and does not have a signed agreement with the board, which is scheduled to discuss his contract and evaluation. "They have simply declined to deal with it until such time controversial items have been removed," he said.

The proposal allows for a con-

tribution of 10 percent of Maynard's gross salary into the International City Manager's Association retirement fund. It also allows him to cash in seven of his 15 vacation days.

The proposed contract states compensatory time is prohibited, although Maynard may take time off to make up for accrued compensatory time. Maynard added the comp time section to "differentiate myself from past managers," claiming previous managers have deviated from the charter.