

1/21/93 HC

Winsted

Manager makes contract offer public

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WINSTED — Town Manager David A. Maynard made public his proposed contract with the board of selectmen Wednesday, a day after the town's community lawyer demanded to see it.

Charlene LaVoie, the lawyer who serves as a community advocate through funding from the Shafeek Nader Trust, asked Maynard at Tuesday's selectmen's meeting to provide her with a copy of his proposed contract under the state's Freedom of Information Act.

Maynard said the contract is "currently a privacy right." But there was brisk discussion when it was disclosed that Republican Mayor William H. McCabe had seen the document.

Selectman Walter D. Miller, who is unaffiliated, argued that if the mayor has seen it, then all board members are entitled to see it.

Consideration of a contract for

Maynard, who became town manager in June, has been delayed at several recent selectmen's meetings because not all selectmen have been present.

LaVoie said she filed a complaint with the Freedom of Information Commission earlier Wednesday after receiving a letter from Maynard denying her request to see the proposed contract.

Maynard released a copy of the document that afternoon.

"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," Maynard said. "As such, the town cannot afford the luxury of waiting for the Freedom of Information Commission advisory opinion regarding this issue."

The proposed contract would grant Maynard a raise retroactive to Jan. 1. The amount of the raise was not listed. Maynard's annual salary is \$54,000. Maynard would also re-

ceive an International City Managers Association retirement fund contribution of 8 percent of his gross salary for the period ending Dec. 31, 1992. That contribution would be increased to 10 percent "immediately thereafter."

The proposed contract also calls for Maynard to receive termination pay equal to one month's salary.

Maynard had said in October that McCabe had offered him 90 days' severance pay when he was being considered for the manager's job in May. But the town charter says that the town manager is entitled to one month's severance.

McCabe had maintained in October that selectmen did not offer 90 days' severance pay. "On severance, the board didn't take a position," McCabe said.

LaVoie said Wednesday some portions of the proposed contract with Maynard are already covered in the town charter.

"They don't have to be repeated in the contract," she said.