

In Winsted, date set for third referendum

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ask the teachers union to forego raises this year after seeing Wastertown teachers agree to a similar proposal. The school board already asked the teachers to skip raises for the next fiscal year, and were refused.

Selectman John F. Gauger Jr. said people object to built-in spending increases in the school budget that are earmarked not for education, but for benefits and raises for staff. "Everybody has the same objection . . . the cost structure of the Educational Enhancement Act," Gauger said, referring to the act that results in pay increases for teachers statewide.

School board Chairman Thomas M. Condon said selectmen's orders to cut the school budget without affecting children is impossible. "When the budget gets cut, it's got to affect kids," he said. If people are upset with teachers' salaries the place to look for change is with the state legislator, not by hacking local school budgets.

In anticipation of last night's meeting, the pro-budget group, "Taxpayers for Our Town," sent out fliers urging residents to attend the meeting. "There is a strong possibility that those who oppose the town budget will try to make further cuts at the town

meeting . . . It is unfortunate that there are people in the community who want to systematically dismantle the progress which is being made to improve the quality of life for all the citizens and the children in this town. Their reasoning is that they got along without it so the present generation can too," the flier stated.

Mayor William H. McCabe, who has questioned the legality of circumventing the annual budget meeting, last week called a special selectmen's meeting to seek a legal opinion on the petition.

However, the move failed when a majority of the board failed to show for the meeting.