

Old issue revived

12/1/93
E/C

Winsted asked to review police payout

By JUNE PETERSON
Register Citizen Staff

WINSTED - The \$10,000 supplementary retirement payment issued to a retiring police captain in 1991 has resurfaced, and could be brought before a town meeting for a vote.

Community lawyer Charlene LaVoie has asked the town to review the handling of the 1991 petition that challenged the Board of Selectmen for granting the payout to Francis J. O'Neill.

In a letter dated Nov. 17 to Mayor John F. Gauger Jr., LaVoie wrote, "I request that the Board of Selectmen review this matter at the next meeting in an attempt to remedy the situation and avoid the necessity of a lawsuit against the town to enforce the rights of the citizens."

At issue is the handling of the petition by Town Clerk William T. Riiska. When it was submitted to his office in 1991, Riiska failed to certify the signatures, rendering the petition invalid. A subsequent suit brought against the town over the \$10,000 by LaVoie on the behalf of Patricia Mills, was dismissed by the court in October because the petition was not certified.