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State grievance committee drops complaint

By JUNE PETERSON
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WINSTED — The Statewide Grievance Committee officially dismissed a complaint Thursday filed against community lawyer Charlene LaVoie by former mayor William H. McCabe.

McCabe had charged LaVoie violated the Rules of Professional Conduct for lawyers when she contacted Mayor John F. Gauger Jr. for an affidavit in 1993 without consulting with the town attorney, at the time Stephen O. Allaire.

At the time, LaVoie was suing the town more than $10,000 in a supplementary retirement benefit paid to a retiring police captain. Gauger, as a selectman, was a defendant in the case.

McCabe's complaint against LaVoie made it through the local grievance panel, which then passed it onto the statewide level. A reviewing committee recommended the charge be dismissed in September by a 2-1 vote. The grievance panel then followed the reviewing committee's recommendation.