

A town must have coordinated planning. In other words, proactive, not reactive government. Without coordination the plans you pay dearly for end up in a filing cabinet. The plans you should have are not in place and you find out your taxes are raised at an alarming rate. I presented an idea that the manager coordinate planning.

Another problem is lack of accountability. (The same was recently reported by the Thomas Commission for our state government). The manager is accountable to the Board of Selectmen. The authority to carry out the job does not result in a lopsided structure, because the Board of Selectmen (and the taxpayers) have the power to replace the manager. I submitted many ideas to make the manager accountable. Please note that this results in more work for the manager's position.

In closing, each and every idea I gave to Charter Revision was intended to give the taxpayers a better buy for their buck. An example is that I recommended allowing the manager to live within a reasonable distance, and that it should be a negotiable item. I live in Colebrook (4 miles from Winsted) and negotiated a salary based on the fact that I have to move. I would have negotiated 10 percent less (\$5,670) if I didn't have to move. What do you think? Does this disgust, dismay, or make you laugh uproariously? That was the reaction of the Charter Commission.

1/17/91  
Wayne W. Dove, Town Manager