

Manager fired on 4-3 vote

Dismissal of Dove denounced as 'deal'

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WINSTED — Town Manager Wayne W. Dove was fired Monday night by a 4-3 vote at a tumultuous board of selectmen's meeting.

The selectmen also voted 4-3 to suspend Dove immediately, paying him his full salary and benefits until the end of the year. The board then voted, again by a 4-3 vote, to appoint Town Clerk William T. Riiska acting town manager.

Dove has been town manager a little over a year, succeeding David Battistoni, who left office in August 1990. A public hearing on Dove's dismissal is scheduled for Dec. 3.

There were boos from many in the crowd of about 140 when the selectmen voted to fire Dove after more than two hours of public discussion. More than 20 residents spoke in Dove's behalf; about five spoke against him. So many attended the meeting it was adjourned from town hall to a larger room at the Gilbert School.