**Finance Committee Meeting Minutes**

**November 10, 2020**

Meeting was called to order at 7 pm. Present included Chairman Kristian Whitsett and members Jackie Walsh, John Redeker and Deborah Andrew.

**New Business**

**Visit by School Committee member Brad Walker**

Brad talked to the committee about the Mohawk Trail Regional School District budget for Fiscal Year 2021.

He reported that the state tax distribution between towns is convoluted. The state has made efforts to make funding to schools more equitable, he said. The state looks at enrollment numbers and property and income levels in making its decisions about funding. It has created a

policy of implementing major changes in funding over seven years so it’s not such a shock to towns.

It has come up with a safety net for systems with declining enrollments.

Brad urged committee members to call our state reps and ask them to help get the state to put together the budget earlier so the school systems can plan their budgets based on actual state money figures rather than estimating every year.

The committee discussed other aspects of the budgeting process. Members proposed that the superintendent and/or School Committee explain what percent increase in the district budget would be needed to get a budget with a more ideal number of staff members.

**Franklin County Tech School**

The school superintendent has asked to meet with us soon about the Fiscal Year 2021 budget. We will schedule that.

**Old Business**

**Getting additional Finance Committee members**

The committee continued discussing how to find additional committee members.

We have four members now and should have five.

**Future meetings**

Jan. 6, 7:30 p.m., with the selectmen

Jan. 15, 7 p.m. Finance Committee

Jan. 22, Special Town Meeting.

The committee adjourned at 9 p.m.