

Ashford asks state for help on street lights

Max Borsuk Staff Reporter

The Town of Ashford is asking New York state to help bring street lights to the intersection of Route 219 and Peters Road. The town will be sending a letter to Senator Cathy Young, asking the state to cover the cost of the street lights. Sending the letter was approved at the town's Jan. 9 meeting.

The town received a quote and plot plan from National Grid for the possible installation of two street lights; one at the Route 219 and Peters Road intersection and one before the median on Route 219. The board decided to send a letter and the quote to Young to see what the state can do to help with the intersection and the safety of drivers.

"It should have been in the bid to start with when they built [the median]," Councilman William Heim said. "I would think for sure somebody ought to come up with some money because it is dangerous."

The initial quote for the street lights would cost the taxpayers around \$12,000, but the town is exploring ways to reduce the cost before moving forward. The project is in its early stages and town is working to ensure the lights are installed in the most cost-effective way.

"The board is not comfortable saddling the taxpayers with this cost," Councilman John Pfeffer said. "We are looking for better ways to reduce that cost or find better ways to pay for it so it's not born by the taxpayers of that light district."

The town also looked at saving money within its light districts with the possible replacement of existing street lights with LEDs. The town will participate in National Grid's LED Street Light Conversion Program, after the board approved a resolution.

National Grid found both light districts within the Town of Ashford were eligible for the conversion program and could benefit from the switch to LED street lights. The town would need to provide seed money up front but would receive money back and see additional money in energy conservation savings.



Journal File Photo

The median at Peters Road.

The town made its annual appointments and approvals to start the year during the organizational meeting. Appointments by the board included Susan Feldman as the supervisor's bookkeeper, Larry Feldman as code enforcement officer, William King as town historian and budget officer, Angela Ghani as director of the recreation commission, John Pfeffer as deputy supervisor and Keith Butcher as deputy highway superintendent. The town board meeting schedule, the

Springville Journal as the town's official newspaper and salaries for town officials were also approved.

In other board news: – The board approved the building permit schedule. – Cattaraugus County Legislature Joe Boberg attended the meeting and commended the board for work on the proposed solar farm and combined town and county salt shed project. – U.S. Department of Energy Director of the **West Valley Demonstration Project** Brian Bower updated the board on demolition at the site. The utility room and utility room extension are the next buildings set to be demolished. The next Ashford Town Board meeting will be Wednesday, Feb. 13 at 7:30 p.m. at the Ashford Community Center, 9377 Route 240, in West Valley.