

Ashford board adopts 2021 preliminary budget

Max Borsuk
Editor

The Ashford Town Board, at its Sept. 9 meeting, adopted the 2021 tentative budget as the 2021 preliminary budget. Budget Officer William King presented the tentative budget to the board members and answered questions before being adopted as preliminary.

Total appropriations for the 2021 budget are \$1,966,060, a decrease from the 2020 budget of \$1,990,101. The tax levy for the 2021 budget would be \$445,360, a \$10,000 increase from last year. But while the tax levy is increasing, King said the total taxable line has increased from last year, which will help offset the \$10,000 tax levy increase, with residents likely only seeing a slight increase.

King also read a letter regarding the annual payment in lieu of taxes. The town has been allocated additional PILOT funds in the past and King urged the board to continue pushing to keep these additional funds to help the town and the residents.

“Senator [Cathy] Young said it like it is. If the intent of this supplement is only for one year and not annually, we have not gained a great deal of comfort. A lot of hard work has been put forth to get this state to recognize that the effect of their choice to take a large part of the Town of Ashford for the [West Valley] Demonstration Project has also put a large strain on the local taxpayers,” King said in the letter. “The State Legislators must realize that one time supplement will not ease our continued strain and this supplement must be an annual payment added to our existing PILOT and with future adjustments anticipated.”

The board is looking into the best ways for hosting a public hearing for the 2021 budget, with King suggesting it to be held at the next board meeting on Oct. 14.

In other board news:

– The board discussed possible options for a Halloween curfew and a decision will be made at the next board meeting.

– The board received a letter requesting a speed study on a section of Route 219 from around north of the Town of Ellicottville border to the existing 45 MPH point.

The next Ashford Town Board meeting will be Wednesday, Oct. 14 at 7:30 p.m. at the Ashford Community Center, located at 9377 Route 240, in West Valley.