

## Ashford board hears presentation on NYCLASS

Max Borsuk, Editor

The Ashford Town Board heard a presentation at its Oct. 9 meeting about investment opportunities for the town. Regional Marketing Director for NYCLASS Kathy Saville made a presentation to the board about NYCLASS and what it can offer to the town.

NYCLASS is a New York state cooperative investment program that “provides the opportunity to invest funds on a cooperative basis in short-term investments that are carefully chosen to yield favorable returns while striving to provide maximum safety and liquidity,” according to the NYCLASS website.

Talking about the benefits of the program, Saville said it is a liquid program that offers 1.8 percent on all funds. With NYCLASS being liquid, the town would be able to put money in and take money out whenever they needed it and the program also has no fees, no limits to how much they have to put in or how often they have to use the program and the town can create an unlimited amount of sub-accounts.

“I really believe in the program and I think it’s a wonderful program particularly for small communities,” Saville said. “It’s a very liquid and easy to use program ... liquid meaning that if you put money in it today and you found out that you needed it tomorrow, you can get your money out tomorrow.”

After asking questions to Saville and having a discussion among the board members, the board approved authorizing the town to have investments with NYCLASS.

Supervisor Charles Davis took time during the meeting to celebrate the accomplishments of the board over the past four years. Accomplishments over the past four years included:

- Getting a new water system within the hamlet of West Valley.
- Working on a grant to restore the West Valley Hotel.
- Completing a master plan in one year and still continuing work on it.
- Getting grants to do studies for a truck stop and a sewer in the hamlet of West Valley and water and sewer for the 219 area.
- Reducing speed at Peters Road and Route 219 and working on adding streetlights.
- Getting grants from **NYSERDA** for upgraded lighting in the town barns and community center. – Approval to build a solar farm on the **West Valley Nuclear Site** property with a yearly pilot.
- Have made great inroads to be part of discussions with the future of the **West Valley Demonstration Project**.
- Was instrumental in getting funding at \$75 million to the year 2028 for the WVDP.
- Starting a community tree lighting.

- Having a trusted and good working relationship with Congressman Tom Reed’s office.
- Having shared services with Cattaraugus County on assessing and building a shared salt shed.
- Holding the line on taxes for the last four years. “It takes all five of us to make this happen,” Davis said. “I thank you board members for allowing us to do this.” In other board news:
  - The board approved adopting the 2020 preliminary budget as the 2020 annual budget.
  - The board approved a bid for the purchase of a 2020 new and unused 3/4 ton pickup style diesel truck from Emerling Ford, Inc. for \$10,623.90.

The next Ashford Town Board meeting will be Wednesday, Nov. 13 at 7:30 p.m. at the Ashford Community Center, 9377 Route 240, in West Valley.

## West Valley site connects to new electrical distribution system



*Photo provided*

**Workers install a new electrical recloser on the site’s new switchgear station. The recloser will act like a circuit breaker if the system experiences any type of electrical interruption.**

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The Department of Energy Office of Environmental Management and its prime contractor CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley recently completed the installation of a new electrical service and distribution system to provide power to the site's infrastructure. Work was performed by the Site Operations Department, which is responsible for site utilities and maintenance activities.

"The completion of this work evolution will not only bring many benefits to the future cleanup of our EM site but also to the West Valley community," WVDP Deputy Director Craig Rieman said. "This infrastructure upgrade will greatly increase the site's electrical power reliability during future decommissioning and remediation activities now and will provide a reliable source of power for future cleanup activities. This investment will also increase the reliability of electrical power for the surrounding West Valley area. The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority, National Grid and DOE worked collaboratively to relocate transmission lines, eliminate a 1960's era electrical substation and install modern equipment that is easily accessible to the utility company and allows switching transmission paths during upset conditions."

Onsite electrical distribution was rerouted as part of the pre-planning efforts for main plant process building demolition. Removing the utility room extension (added after construction of the main plant) from service required alternate routes and new infrastructure. Crews installed new poles and overhead power lines, along with a new electrical substation. This reroute eliminated the electric distribution from the utility room extension building, which workers were able to demolish this year as part of ongoing cleanup efforts.

"Our employees and subcontractors did an excellent job in planning and executing this work," Linda Michalczak, CHBWV Projects Manager said. "This accomplishment speaks volumes on the importance of solid communication, teamwork and best practices."

During the summer, crews built a new switchgear station and installed a customized recloser (acts like a circuit breaker) and protective fence. With the switchgear station complete, National Grid connected the site to its 34.5 kV line on Aug. 23.