

JOURNAL

SPRINGVILLE



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Ashford Town Board discusses possible uses for funding

Max Borsuk
Editor

The Ashford Town Board, at its March 11 meeting, discussed \$200,000 in community and regulatory support coming to the town through a cooperative agreement with the Department of Energy and possible ways the funding can be used in the future.

After announcing the funding for Ashford, Supervisor John Pfeffer started a discussion on possible ideas that could fit into the guidelines for the funding, create revenue for the town and not be a burden on the taxpayers in the future.

“This funding is not bound to the fiscal year, this funding can last over many years, but the principals in this cooperative agreement must be laid out now,” Pfeffer said. “This is not just an open pit of money that we can do whatever we want. They want to know what we are going to do with this money over time.”

Ideas brought up during the meeting included supplementing the Cattaugus County Sheriff’s, purchasing a vehicle for the town constables, creating a better space for the constables in the town, paving the town’s side of the salt barn, funding a grant writer, purchasing a generator for the Ashford Community Center and kayak docks. Pfeffer also suggested talking with members of the community for input.

One specific idea that was brought up in discussion by the councilmembers was a vehicle for the constables. With some of the constables expressing that a vehicle would be beneficial, Pfeffer said, the constables would then be able to patrol, not have to use personal vehicles and provide more service to the town. During discussion, councilmembers talked about their opinions both for and against a vehicle for constables.

“If we are going to have our first line of defense our own constables, who are DOJ trained, they are in our community, under the direction of the supervisor, they are here for us ... why are we not using them to our best advantage,” Councilmember Richard Bernstein said.

“I’m not saying I’m against it, I’m just not comfortable at this point with it,” Councilmember William Heim said. “At this point my vote would be that we are not ready for a cop car in this town at this time.”

Pfeffer said he will continue to work on the cooperative agreement and work with the councilmembers and community to decide on the best ways the money can be used in Ashford.

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In other board news:

- The board approved a bid from MRC Disposal for the annual trash and refuse removal scheduled this spring in the amount of \$13,200.
- **New York State Energy Research and Development Agency** West Valley Program Director Paul Bembia reported negotiations between the **NYSERDA** and the town are moving forward and the sides are moving toward the implementation phase of the solar farm in Ashford. With construction of the solar farm set to be around seven acres, the board also discussed the possibility of replacing trees one-for-one that would need to be taken down during construction.

The next Ashford Town Board meeting will be Wednesday, April 8 at 7:30 p.m. at the Ashford Community Center, 9377 Route 240, in West Valley.

TOWN OF ASHFORD TOWN BOARD

Notice of Adoption of Resolution Subject to Permissive Referendum Approving a Proposed Amendment to the Sub-lease with West Valley Solar LLC

Notice is hereby given that the Town Board of the Town of Ashford has approved an Amendment to the Sub-lease with West Valley Solar, LLC to enable a solar energy project at **Western New York Nuclear Service Center**, West Valley NY. The Solar Project proposes the construction and operation of a solar energy facility and associated infrastructure a 10 megawatt (MW) alternating current (AC) (15 MW direct current [DC]) solar photovoltaic facility, which will provide approximately 2 MW of community distributed electricity to subscribers and about 8 MW to larger users. The solar facility would be built on approximately 54 acres of land owned by the **New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA)** at the **Western New York Nuclear Service Center** in the Town of Ashford. The Center consists of 3,300 acres. As approved by the **NYSERDA** Board, **NYSERDA** will lease the land for the solar project to the Town of Ashford, who will further lease the land to West Valley Solar, LLC. The Amendment changes the exact footprint of the project, a similar amendment was made to the Town's lease with **NYSERDA**.

The adopted resolution is subject to permissive referendum pursuant to New York Town Law §64(2), and will not take effect until thirty days after its adoption; nor until approved by the affirmative vote of a majority of the qualified electors of the Town voting on such proposition, if within thirty days after its adoption (March 11, 2020) there is filed

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with the Town Clerk a petition signed, and acknowledged or proved, or authenticated by electors of the Town qualified to vote upon a proposition to raise and expend money, in number equal to at least five per centum of the total vote cast for governor in the Town at the last general election held for the election of state officers.

Patricia R. Dashnaw
TOWN OF ASHFORD TOWN CLERK
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