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Ashford Town Board discusses COVID-19 impacts

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Editor

The Ashford Town Board, at its April 15 meeting via teleconferencing, discussed what the town is doing to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 and heard reports from others within the town who are also taking precautionary steps.

Supervisor John Pfeffer reported a State of Emergency was declared for the Town of Ashford as of April 15 due to emergency conditions produced by COVID-19. Pfeffer also started soliciting people in the community who would be able to help deliver meals to people in need, with a number of people who offered to help with various organizations including the West Valley Food Pantry. The town is also continuing communication with Cattaraugus County regarding updates with COVID-19.

Highway Superintendent Tim Engels reported the highway department is continuing to work in a safe manner and is following guidelines and orders from the state and county. Engels and Pfeffer continue to talk on a weekly basis regarding the highway department to make sure everything is running smoothly and all required measures are being followed.

Department of Energy **West Valley Demonstration Project** Director Brian Bower talked about what precautions and steps are being taken at the **WVDP** regarding COVID-19. Bower reported there are no COVID-19 confirmed cases at the **WVDP** and are currently working with a limited number of staff at the site. Crews at the **WVDP** are also complying with the executive order to wear masks when employees are not able to practice social distancing.

New York State Energy Research and Development Agency West Valley Program Director Paul Bembia reported that **NYSERDA** is complying with Governor Andrew Cuomo's executive orders on teleworking. **NYSERDA** staff in **West Valley** are conducting routine work activities from home, while state license disposal area inspections, environmental monitoring and other required activities are being conducted as scheduled in a safe manner.

In other news:

– Bower reported DOE has extended the contract with CH2M HILL BWXT **West Valley**, LLC by 39 months to June 2023 for decommissioning activities at the **WVDP**. The purpose for the extension was to address the impacts associated with the pause of the main plant demolition, as well as incorporating lessons learned from the demolition of the vitrification facility and other successful demolitions at the site.

The next Town of Ashford board meeting will be on Wednesday, May 13 at 7:30 p.m.