

Ashford board adopts 2022 preliminary budget

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Editor

The Ashford Town Board, at its Sept. 15 meeting, adopted the 2022 tentative budget as the 2022 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 2022 budget are \$2,053,100, an increase from the 2021 budget of \$1,966,060. The tax levy for the 2022 budget would be \$453,360, a \$8,000 increase from last year. But while the tax levy is increasing, King said residents should likely only see a slight increase.

A public hearing for the 2022 budget will be Wednesday, Oct. 13 at 8 p.m. during the regular town board meeting at the Ashford Community Center, 9377 Route 240 in West Valley.

Communications Manager for CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley, LLC Joe Pillittere spoke about a meeting on Wednesday, Sept. 29 at the West Valley Volunteer Hose Company Fireman's Memorial Hall, located at 9085 Route 240, for the public to learn about the demolition of the main plant process building at the **WVDP**. Two sessions will be held from 5:30-6:30 p.m. and 7-8 p.m. This meeting will include presentations, informational stations, demonstrations and subject matter experts to answer questions.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, people must reserve a spot and due to guidelines from the federal government, all in-person meetings will be limited to 50 attendees and will require attestation of having been vaccinated or a negative COVID-19 test three days prior to the meeting. Attendees will also be required to wear a mask and comply with physical distancing requirements. To reserve a spot, contact Pillittere at 942-4996.

In other board news:

- The board approved the Halloween curfew for 9 p.m.
- Highway Superintendent Keith Butcher talked about his concerns with the capabilities to complete work timely with a reduced crew and said how a new hire would be necessary soon. After a discussion from board members, the board was authorized to advertise for a highway employee for \$17 per hour.

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