

## Ashford looking at possible WVDP waste reclassification

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**Max Borsuk**  
Staff Reporter

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The Ashford Town Board held their annual audit of the books for 2016 during their Feb. 8 meeting.

Susan Feldman made a presentation to board members about this year's audit and answered questions from the board. From the general account, the revenues are \$25,000 less than 2015. Feldman said a big reason for this was a \$29,000 decrease in the amount taken in through the justice fines and funds. But other funds including building permits and dog control money increased steadily. Expenditures were approximately \$9,000 more than 2015, which Feldman said are usual increases in areas such as payroll, supplies and membership dues.

She reported that revenues from the highway account were much less than last year because in 2015, the town received about \$259,000 from the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Expenses were up \$40,000 because the town maxed out the equipment

account, which they did not do in 2015. But because of the FEMA money, Feldman said the town finished 2016 with a larger fund balance and are in good shape going into 2017.

New York State Energy Research and Development Agency West Valley Program Director Paul Bembia reported the possibility of West Valley radioactive waste being reclassified as defense waste. NYSERDA recently briefed members of the New York State Congressional Delegation about the issue and 14 members wrote a letter to the Secretary of Energy supporting NYSERDA's view. The NYS Congressional Delegation received a response letter last month that stated the Department of Energy recognized the merit of the issue and looks forward to opening up discussions on the matter with the state.

Bembia said that if these wastes as reclassified as defense wastes, it could open the path of early removal of high level waste from the site, create a disposal path-

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# Catt. Co. residents encouraged to take survey

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way for the West Valley transuranic waste – which currently has no disposal path – and remove the need for taxpayers to bear the burden of paying the large high level waste disposal fee.

In other board news:

– Board member Jean

Bond asked those in attendance to take a survey hosted by Cattaraugus County seeking input on recreational trails in the county. The survey can be found at [www.cattco.org](http://www.cattco.org) and will possibly help the county get grant money.

– The board approved

the specs for a backhoe to put them out for bid. The bids will be opened at the March 8 meeting at 8 p.m.

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