

Ashford board holds organizational meeting

ASHFORD – The Ashford Town Board held its annual organizational meeting on Jan. 10.

Appointments by the board during the organizational meeting included Susan Feldman as the bookkeeper for the supervisor, Larry Feldman as code enforcement officer, Bill King as town historian, Angela Ghani as director of the recreation committee for a one year term, John Syms as the animal control officer, John Pfeffer as deputy supervisor and Keith Butcher as deputy highway superintendent.

Along with the appointments, naming the Springville Journal as the town's official newspaper, the 2018 schedule of meetings, the committees for the town board and rates for new employees were all approved.

After the organizational meeting, the board continued with its regular board meeting.

Ashford Supervisor Charles Davis spoke with the board about the upcoming year and some of the goals for the board to continue bettering the town.

"I feel like our responsibility is that when we wake up today we should figure out one thing to do to move this town forward and that is what I want our goal to be as a board," Davis said. "I just want to have, as a board, that mentality of what we are trying to do."

The town has a variety of projects its working on, including completion of the master plan, the **West Valley Demonstration Project demolition**, conversations about taxes and the proposed solar farm. Though Ashford is facing some challenges, Davis said the board's goal is to continue bettering the town and making it a better place for everybody in Ashford.

"We have a lot of challenges ... these are the goals that I think as this town board moves into 2018 and 2019, we need to strive more for ... to be

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better, to get better,” Davis said. “Our goal is to make this town attractive where they want to come and live here.”

In other board news:

– Sealed bids were opened for a new loader for the town. The board approved Ashford Highway Superintendent Tim Engels to look at the three bids and if they meet the specifications, go with the lowest bid.

– West Valley Volunteer Hose Company member Shawn Lafferty spoke to the board about the importance of adding and retaining new members to the fire company and asked if there is anything the town could do in helping increase membership.

The next Ashford Town Board meeting will be held on Wednesday, Feb. 14 at 7:30 p.m. at the Ashford Community Center, located at 9377 Route 240, in West Valley.