

# SPRINGVILLE JOURNAL

## ***Ashford board discusses grant options***

ASHFORD—Looking at the next phase in the master plan implementation, the Town of Ashford board heard about future grant options the town can pursue during a meeting Feb. 14.

Ashford Planning Board President Andrea Mellon spoke about a recent proposal from the Ferguson Group, who is developing the master plan for the town, that laid out a number of national and state grants that the town can apply for.

“This is really to start the implementation of our master plan,” Mellon said. “Things like infrastructure are called out specifically in the master plan recognizing the need to begin to design for the infrastructure, look at the strategic planning of that infrastructure and begin the construction of the infrastructure ... to not only keep the residents in the areas that are there but also to attract and encourage business in the area.”

With the cost of applying for each grant ranging from \$7,000 to \$17,000, the Ferguson Group offered an option where the town can choose to apply for any three grants for a flat fee of \$25,000.

Mellon recommended the town go with the three grants for \$25,000 option and suggested three grants they should apply for – the U.S. Department of Commerce grant, U.S. Agriculture grant and an Appalachian Regional grant.

With some of these grants, the Ferguson Group also recommended the town do a door-to-door income survey within the two main areas of the master plan – the Route 240 corridor and the Route 219 corridor.

“We are very close to having a lot more funding provided either in the pre-construction and the construction ... if we meet their eligibility requirements for income, we would have a lot more paid in the grant as opposed to being just over that,” Mellon said.

In other board news:

Stephen Schlagenhauf was presented with a plaque honoring his more than 35 years of service to the town highway department amid his retirement.



Councilman William Heim suggested the town looks into putting a streetlight at the corner of Route 219 and Peters Road. Supervisor Charles Davis said he will look into the issue.

New York State Energy Research and Development Agency West Valley Program Director Paul Bembia reported NYSERDA recently completed its evaluation needed from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for the proposed solar farm at the West Valley nuclear site. NYSERDA submitted the package to their licensing support contractor and they expect to hear comments and recommendations back soon.

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