

# Ashford Board hears WVDP updates

**Max Borsuk**  
**Staff Reporter**

The Ashford Town Board was updated on the progress at the West Valley Demonstration Project at their Oct. 12 meeting.

New York State Department of Energy Director of the WVDP site Bryan Bower said that the transferring of the high level waste canisters from the main plant process building to the interim storage pad is progressing well. Bower noted that the 44th cask was recently transferred to the storage pad.

With five high level waste canisters in each cask, there have now been 220 canisters transferred to the storage pad so far. There are 55 canisters, or 11 casks, left in the building that still need to be transferred. Bower said that, weather permitting, they hope to have all this work completed by the end of 2016.

The board held a public hearing for the 2017 budget, with Budget Officer William King in attendance to answer any additional questions. The town's tax levy is set to stay the same as last year at \$435,360 while total budget appropriations for 2017 are proposed to be at \$1,834,122 -- an increase from last year's appropriations of \$1,803,474. After the public hearing, the board approved the adoption of the 2017 preliminary budget.

At previous meetings, the board discussed the possibility of a van service for town residents. Board member Jean Bond said that she spoke to the only municipality in Cattaraugus County with a

senior citizens van, the Village of Little Valley. Bond found that the seniors in the community purchased the van and take care of all the scheduling of drivers and users themselves.

Ashford Supervisor Charles Davis said he spoke to someone from the Department of Aging, who said most of the municipalities that have van services are run through a church or community organization. The town is researching all available options and will do all they can, but from their perspective, feel it would be difficult to facilitate.

"I, and I don't think anybody sitting here, is opposed to doing something to help, but it is going to take a lot of research," said Davis. "We are not equipped to be able to put a full-time person to coordinate getting people signed up for the van, to take the van, to coordinate drivers ... government was not set up to be able to do those things. That is what we have churches, communities and other organizations for."

In other news the board:

- Approved a 10 p.m. curfew for Halloween.

- Approved re-advertising for bids on a 2017 new and unused 3/4 ton diesel pickup truck after receiving no bids. The bid opening will be held Nov. 9 at 8 p.m.

- Approved updates for permit fees in the town, effective January 2017.

The next Ashford Town Board meeting will be on Wednesday, Nov. 9 at 7:30 p.m. at the Ashford Community Center, located at 9377 Route 240, in West Valley.