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December 21, 2017

Ashford Approves New Insurance Company

ASHFORD—After hearing presentations from multiple agencies in previous meetings, the Ashford Town Board elected to go with the Evans Agency as the town's new insurance carrier, at the Dec. 13 meeting.

The Town of Ashford was previously covered by Trident Insurance and needed to decide whether to re-enroll or decide on a different carrier by their renewal date on Jan. 15. At the Nov. 8 board meeting, representatives for the New York Municipal Insurance Reciprocal and the Evans Agency made their pitch to board members.

During their discussion, members of the board voiced their opinions on the different companies. Board members Jean Bond and William Heim were both in favor of the Evans Agency and had a few concerns with NYMIR. Some of their concerns included having to sign up for NYMIR for five years, differences in some of the coverages and the number of special inspections.

After doing additional research on NYMIR, board member Richard Bernstein tried to answer questions and address any concerns from Bond and Heim. Bernstein later added that no matter how the board decided, the quotes from both NYMIR and the Evans Agency were good and either will be beneficial to the town.

"I think both quotes were very good and a good premium," Bernstein said. "I feel both are good, we can't get hurt by either one."

The board later unanimously voted to go with the Evans Agency as the town's new insurance carrier and Ashford Supervisor Charles Davis said he would contact the Evans Agency to start the process.

New York State Energy Research and Development Agency West Valley Program Director Paul Bembia gave his report to the board. NYSERDA has recently finished the installation of a new impermeable cover over the SDA disposal trenches at the West Valley Demonstration Project. Bembia also reported that work is continuing on the possibility for constructing a solar farm facility at the nuclear site.

In other board news:

– Brad Frank of the Ashford Planning Board informed the board he distributed the comprehensive plan draft 1 to board members and comments were needed to complete draft 2. For the comprehensive plan, two public meetings are scheduled for Jan. 9 and Feb. 15 at the West Valley Fire Hall.

– The board approved specifications provided by Highway Superintendent Tim Engels for a new loader.

The Ashford Town Board will hold its year end meeting for 2017 on Wednesday, Dec. 27 at 7:30 p.m. The 2018 organizational meeting will be held on Wednesday, Jan. 10 at 7:30 p.m., followed by the regular board meeting, at the Ashford Community Center, located at 9377 Route 240, in West Valley.