

Ashford board supports Southwestern Association of Volunteer Firefighters convention to be held in town

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Editor

The Ashford Town Board, at its Oct. 10 meeting, heard from representatives from the Southwestern Association of Volunteer Firefighters regarding a request to host its annual convention in Ashford in 2024.

After Ashford was supposed to host the convention in 2020 and was canceled due to COVID-19, members of the Southwestern Association of Volunteer Firefighters attended the meeting asking for support to host the convention during the first week of August in 2024.

“It is a four-day event, it brings forth the brotherhood and sisterhood of firemen, it is designed to network, have some educational pieces, have a forum for us to have a voice to the state and to continue to provide services, guidances and information to firefighters in the volunteer organizations of the four counties,” representatives of the Southwestern Association of Volunteer Firefighters said. “2020 would have been West Valley’s spot in the rotation, but COVID hit. We lost our ability to highlight our town, to promote activities that we have and to bring people here to see the best of the best of what we do.”

Supervisor John Pfeffer asked questions of the organization to make sure the event would come at no cost to the town, which the Southwestern Association of Volunteer Firemen said it would not have a cost to the town. The board later approved a resolution, pending the West Valley Volunteer Hose Company also approving, the holding of the 2024 Southwestern Association of Volunteer Firefighters convention in the Town of Ashford.

In other board news:

– Communications and External Affairs Manager for CH2M HILL BWXT West Valley, LLC Joe Pillittere reported the controlled demolition of the Main Plant Process Building at the **West Valley Demonstration Project** is continuing. Work was safely completed on the Solvent Storage Terrace. Workers have moved to the next area to be dismantled, which is the Upper Warm Aisle.

– After a public hearing, the board adopted the 2023 preliminary budget as the 2023 budget. Total appropriations for the 2023 budget are \$2,106,589, an increase from the 2022 budget of \$2,053,100. The increase in the budget will be \$53,489, with \$53,489 of fund balance being used to offset the increase. The actual tax levy will remain the same as 2022 at \$453,360.

– Pfeffer reported broadband installations are currently being completed by Armstrong within the town.

The next Town of Ashford board meeting will be Wednesday, Nov. 9 at 7 p.m.