

Town of Prattsville
Budget Workshop
October 22nd, 2025

The Town Board of the Town of Prattsville, NY, and County of Greene, NY, held a Budget Workshop at the Prattsville Town Hall on Wednesday, October 22nd, 2025, at 5:30 pm.

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| Present: | Greg Cross | Supervisor |
| | Joyce Peckham | Councilperson |
| | Eli Martin | Councilman |
| | Mason Chase | Councilman |
| | Theresa Whitworth | Town Clerk |
| Absent: | Heidi Ruehlmann | Councilperson |

Others present: Connie Brigg, Dan Peckham, Bonita Chase, Melissa Peters, Crystal Soule-Cornell, Stephen & Lisa Birnbaum, Tanessa Dunn, Alyssa Ballard

Supervisor Cross opened the meeting at 5:30 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

The first thing discussed was that the Town of Ashland reached out and would like to have a meeting with the Town boards of both Prattsville and Lexington. Supervisor Cross mentioned that this has been “a tough nut to crack for the last couple of years” and encouraged as many board members as possible to come.

A motion was made by Supervisor Cross and seconded by Councilman Martin to hold an ambulance budget workshop at the Town of Ashland on Thursday, October 30th at 6:00 PM.

Ayes 5 Cross, Peckham, Martin, Chase

Nays 0

Absent 1 Ruehlmann

Public Hearing for the Tax Cap Override was set for Wednesday, October 29th at 5:45 PM

The board reviewed the budget line by line. Key points of discussion included –

General Budget -

Town Board – slight raise

Auditing – Remained the same as last year. It was asked the current audit status and how much of the 2025 budget was used. It was estimated that we have used around \$13k, but there are bills to come, and the audit has been submitted to the State of New York.

Tax Collector – Slight raise

Assessor – The personal services were adjusted to \$13,500, and until the new assessor was fully certified, she would collect \$12,000. As of right now, she is 75% certified.

Town Clerk – The Supervisor emphasized the importance of the Town Hall being open 5 days a week. He proposed that the personal services for Town Clerk go to \$10,000 and the remainder \$34,100, be moved to the personnel personal services line item. With that, the supervisor to the secretary would still be at \$10,000, and the Town Board would set an hourly rate for the remainder \$34,100 to be used by either the Secretary of the Supervisor or the Town Clerk to keep the Town Hall open full-time.

Dog Catcher – went up \$800 due to if we had to bring a dog to the pound.

Building Inspector – \$1,300 was put in for a new laptop, and the contractual exp line went up \$1,500 due to needing a new set of books.

Ambulance – As of right now \$8,800 is in the budget, this is to cover our fly cars. This might go away depending on what the County does to help subsidize our ambulance budget. As of right now, the Town might receive \$70,000 to \$80,000.

Superintendent of Highways – Personal services and contractual expenses have stayed the same, but the board discussed adding money to potentially replace the roof at the highway building.

Ballfield expenses- Repairs and maintenance dropped to \$8,000 due to a written error. The increase is due to costs going up.

Town Historian – The expense for this \$550, but we still have not replaced Carolyn since her resignation.

Debt Interest other Government- This year, a new budget line has been added to account for the \$533,000 repayment owed to the State of New York for the property by the Mews. This repayment will continue for the next 20 years. The idea of selling the Spanhake property was discussed as a potential way to ease this financial burden. Councilman Chase initially believed the discussion referred to the improved property, as that was where the grant funds had been used, funds the town must now repay. Bonita Chase clarified that the funding had been used both to improve the property by the Mews and to purchase the Spanhake property. She explained that the project was ultimately halted after members of the public, including Supervisor Cross, contacted the State Comptroller's Office. Supervisor Cross stated that this is not consistent with the letter received from the State of New York in November 2019. The letter indicated that "the town had failed to ensure that a volunteer member of its project management team adhered to the town's own code of ethics, especially with respect to procurement, and the town failed to follow the requested RFP evaluation criteria. These issues, among others, were not remediated, and indeed the town's January 9, 2019 response failed to conform with its own stated scoring methodology, and other aspects of the monitoring report continued to go unaddressed and have not been remedied." Supervisor Cross also noted that the letter stated the Supervisor at that time had been directed to stop work on the project but did not comply. Ultimately, this issue resulted from the administration in place at that time, not from the public or the Republican members, and will now remain a financial obligation in the town's budget for the next 20 years. It was agreed that the town should explore selling the Spanhake property to help reduce the principal balance on this repayment.

Highway Budget-

Several line items went up.

General Repairs Personal Services & Snow Removal Personal Services – Went up due to Union contract increases.

General Repairs Contractual Expenses, Machinery, Brush & Weeds, Snow removal Contractual expenses – went up due to increases in material costs.

Water Budget –

No changes

Cemetery Budget-

Cemetery Upkeep of Grounds- went up to fix headstones.

Lighting Budget –

The budget stayed the same but noted there were some streetlights that might need repair.

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Ambulance Budget –

It was noted that the Ambulance budget was received from Ashland Ambulance and that it ranged from \$283,000 to \$343,000. This has increased rapidly since 2019, when it was around \$40,000. The board will hopefully receive clearer numbers after their meeting on October 30th, and once the county tells the towns whether they will be providing help. Another budget workshop will be held on October 29th at 5:30

With no further business, Councilman Martin made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Peckham, to adjourn the meeting at 6:47 p.m.

Ayes 4 Cross, Peckham, Martin, Chase

Nays 0

Absent 1

Ruehlmann

Respectfully Submitted

Theresa Whitworth/Town Clerk