

Town of Prattsville
Special Ambulance Meeting
October 30th, 2025

The Town Board of the Town of Prattsville, NY, and County of Greene, NY held a Special Ambulance Meeting at the Ashland Town Hall on Monday, October 30th, 2025, at 6:00pm.

Present:	Greg Cross	Supervisor
	Eli Martin	Councilman
	Mason Chase	Councilman
	Heidi Ruehlmann	Councilperson
	Joyce Peckham	Councilperson
	Theresa Whitworth	Town Clerk
	Rich Tompkins	Ashland Supervisor
	John Mattice	Ashland Councilman
	Jeff Gonzalez	Ashland Councilman
	James Garraghan	Ashland Councilman
	Scott Tuttle	Ashland Councilman
	Dawn Thorpe	Ashland Town Clerk
	JoEllen Schermerhorn	Lexington Supervisor
	Charlotte Jaeger	Lexington Town Clerk

Others present: Dan Peckham, Connie Brigg, Carole Cangelosi, Greg Thorpe, Davia Montie, Stephen & Lisa Birnbaum, Liza Dwon, Mike Ryan, Michele Brainerd, Chris Hamilton, Diana Cross, Heather Younes, Melissa & Matt Peters, Michael Falke

Supervisor Tompkins opened the meeting at 6:00 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

There was extensive discussion about call volumes and how they affect budget distribution among the three towns. Supervisor Tompkins presented a call log showing the distribution of service calls among Prattsville, Lexington, and Ashland.

Melissa Peters raised concerns about how to verify the 157 calls attributed to Prattsville. Supervisor Tompkins explained that the numbers came from the county dispatch center reports and shared a document showing call volume and the budget breakdown per call.

The group discussed discrepancies in call volume numbers, with Supervisor Cross noting that the numbers he had recorded from a previous meeting (63 calls for Ashland, 72 for Lexington, and 159 for Prattsville) differed from what was being presented. Supervisor Tompkins agreed to request that the county run the 2024 call numbers again to verify accuracy.

Melissa Peters asked whether the ambulance service bills insurance companies and how that revenue affects town costs. Supervisor Tompkins explained they had to switch from in-house billing to an outsourced company, which has complicated the allocation of revenues because the billing company doesn't break down collections by municipalities. Supervisor Tompkins explained that previously, if insurance money were collected for a Prattsville call, it would be credited directly to Prattsville. With the new system, they only receive a lump sum payment without a breakdown. He said that the estimated revenues are approximately \$193,000 and have been estimated based on previous years' collection data to estimate revenue credits for each town.

Supervisor Tompkins explained the current proposal was to freeze the percentages based on 2023-2024 call volumes (26.1% for Ashland, 26.2% for Lexington, and 47.7% for Prattsville) but noted this approach might change based on anticipated county subsidies. The county had tentatively proposed subsidies of \$64,008.46 for Ashland, \$38,004.63 for Lexington, and \$82,005.54 for Prattsville.

Councilman Chase suggested using a two-year average to smooth out spikes in call volume, calculating a 51.74% share for Prattsville rather than the 55.8% indicated by recent numbers. Councilman Tuttle expressed concern that this approach would require annual recalculation, while others felt it was more equitable.

Clerk Whitworth asked about the possibility of splitting costs equally (one-third each) among the three towns rather than by call volume. Supervisor Tompkins noted they had previously considered this approach when discussing a mountaintop ambulance service, but hadn't pursued it after that initiative fell through. He explained that while this would stabilize costs, it would effectively have Lexington and Ashland subsidizing Prattsville's higher call volume.

Supervisor Cross questioned the actual cost to run the service in 2024 versus the budgeted amount, expressing concern that Prattsville's portion of the budget was increasing by approximately \$50,000 this year (from \$225,000 to around \$271,000), even with the anticipated county subsidy. He mentioned that in previous years, there had been significant budget surpluses.

Supervisor Cross specifically asked about the \$70,000 that Ashland still holds of Prattsville's money from 2024. Supervisor Tompkins acknowledged that some surplus funds were being held from previous years and explained these would be used, along with Ashland town contributions, toward the purchase of a new ambulance. He indicated that one of their 2009/2010 ambulances needed replacement, with a new ambulance costing approximately \$340,000, compared to \$303,000 for their last purchase in 2023.

Supervisor Tompkins noted that the largest cost in the budget is the personnel portion. He states that a family plan for the insurance is around \$3,900 per month, with the service paying 75% of that cost. He emphasized that good quality help and retention were top priorities, and that paying competitive wages was necessary to maintain staff. Other increases included liability insurance, with the overall budget going up by about 10%.

Carole Cangelosi asked Supervisor Tompkins how out of district calls were being handled. Tompkins answered by explaining that they bill the patient but don't bill towns outside their contract area.

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It was discussed that it is a burden for Lexington and Ashland but with Lexington's new rehab center their call volume may go up significantly higher. Which would make it more understandable to split the cost equally.

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Stephen Birnbaum asked how much a call costs. Supervisor Tompkins answered with that they charge whatever they are allowed to charge and that with more calls the cost of the service would not go up. Supervisor Cross said that his residents are questioning him about why they are receiving bills after their insurance has paid, and after they have paid their taxes. Supervisor Tompkins acknowledged this frustration but explained that if they didn't "balance bill" (bill patients for amounts not covered by insurance), town costs would increase significantly. He noted that the different insurance plans pay different percentages, with Medicare and Medicaid paying substantially less than private insurance.

There was a brief discussion of the potential county-wide ambulance service. It was noted that they had a workshop on November 3rd to discuss the options of revenue the county was debating offering each town for their ambulance service. Supervisor Tompkins indicated he thought the county-wide system would eventually happen, but had reservations about the current county plans and timeline. Concerns were raised about service to the mountain communities. Tompkins answered with "We're in a different world over here. We don't have the population, we don't have the tax base, and we don't have the call volume".

The meeting concluded with Supervisor Tompkins agreeing to obtain updated call volume data from the county and a breakdown of the ambulance budget to the town representatives for further discussion.

With no further business, a motion was made by Councilman Tuttle and seconded by Councilman Mattice to adjourn the meeting at 7:14 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted
Theresa Whitworth/Town Clerk