

Town of Prattsville
Monthly Meeting
October 10th, 2025

The Town Board of the Town of Prattsville, NY, and County of Greene, NY, held a Monthly Meeting at the Prattsville Town Hall on Monday, October 10th, 2025, at 7:00 pm.

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

Others present: Connie Brigg, Charlie & Beverly Santo, Dan Peckham, Bonita Chase, Stephanie Braswell, Jim Thorington, Melissa & Matt Peters, Shelly Brainerd, Michael & Melissa Kiel, Aldo & Natalie Altamirano, David Whitbeck, and Annie Hull on Zoom.

Supervisor Cross opened the meeting at 7:00pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made by Councilman Chase and seconded by Councilmember Ruehlmann to approve the Clerk's minutes for the Regular meeting on September 8th, 2025.

Ayes 5 Cross, Peckham, Martin, Chase, Ruehlmann
Nays 0
Absent 0

A motion was made by Councilperson Peckham and seconded by Councilman Martin to approve the Monthly Financials report.

Ayes 5 Cross, Peckham, Martin, Chase, Ruehlmann
Nays 0
Absent 0

Public Hearing for Local Law #1

A motion was made by Councilman Chase and seconded by Councilperson Ruehlmann to open the public hearing at 7:15 for Local Law #1 – A Local Law designating Town Highways for Travel by Off-Highway Vehicles.

Ayes 5 Cross, Peckham, Martin, Chase Ruehlmann
Nays 0
Absent 0

Supervisor Cross explained that 607 Riders club had approached the town with a request to adopt a similar law, providing examples from other municipalities. After reviewing the proposal, the board authorized the town attorney to draft the law, which has been under review for the past few months. One resident raised concerns about how UTVs would legally access town roads since they would need to use state highways to reach them. Supervisor Cross clarified that UTV operators would need to park on private properties where they have permission and could then use town roads to cross between properties. Several residents expressed concerns about enforcement, given that the town relies

on the county sheriff's office for patrols, and worried that the law might encourage illegal use of state highways.

Mike Kiel, president of the 607 Riders Club, spoke in favor of the law. He explained that their club has around 135 members, they conduct charity events, require membership forms, carry insurance, and have safety protocols. Several residents suggested adding a permit requirement with a fee (around \$20) to help identify legal riders and potentially generate revenue for the town. Mike expressed willingness to comply with permit requirements. After discussion, the board will consider amending the law to include a permit provision. It was decided to close the public hearing, make amendments to the drafted law, and then schedule another public hearing.

A motion was made by Councilman Chase and seconded by Councilmember Ruehlmann to close the public hearing at 7:52 for Local Law #1.

Ayes 5 Cross, Peckham, Martin, Chase, Ruehlmann

Nays 0

Absent 0

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR/CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE COMMUNITY

Stephani Braswell raised concerns regarding the recent boil water advisory. She first questioned why members of the Town Board were not initially informed of the advisory. She also expressed disappointment with the communication efforts during the nine-day outage, noting that many elderly residents lack access to social media or the internet. Ms. Braswell suggested that bottled water should have been made available at the Town Hall and that door-to-door notifications should have been conducted.

Supervisor Cross responded that the water remained safe for use and that several individuals, including himself, made unsuccessful attempts to obtain bottled water through county and state channels. He stated that the town complied with all Department of Health (DOH) notification requirements and had repeatedly requested that water customers provide email addresses; however, only 20 of the 170 customers had done so.

Melissa Peters acknowledged that communication has been a longstanding challenge for the town and recommended adopting multiple communication methods since not all residents use email, Facebook, or visit the Town regularly. She proposed sending an annual mailing with information about town meetings, contact details, and guidance on how residents can stay informed.

Ms. Braswell also inquired about the \$1.4 million grant awarded to the town in 2017 for water infrastructure improvements. Supervisor Cross explained that in 2018–2019, the town drilled three test wells—two of which were dry and one that showed high arsenic levels. As a result, the town determined it was more practical to treat water from the existing PW-1 well. He added that the town recently received deeds for the purchase of a 200-foot buffer around the well to allow for its continued use.

Bonita Chase asked how much of the grant funds had been spent to date. Supervisor Cross estimated the amount to be approximately \$240,000. Mrs. Chase suggested it was closer to \$500,000, noting it was higher when she last worked in the office. Supervisor Cross said he would verify the exact figure and provide an update at the next meeting.

Reports:

1. Highway – Everything is going well.

2. Water District report – Dave reported that the average water usage was approximately 44-45,000 gallons. He explained the recent water situation in town that the water tank levels had been dropping rapidly for about a week and a half, reaching a critical point to where he discussed the use of PW-1 as a supplemental source. The Department of Health (DOH) was contacted for approval to use it to which they granted us approval but we needed to have a boil water advisory. Dave explained that they had already tested PW-1 for metals, arsenic, and had a chlorination system in place. They tested the water for two consecutive days and asked the DOH to lift the advisory, but the DOH did not approve. Eventually, PW-2 was able to keep up with the demand to keep the tank filled so PW-1 was turned off. The DOH insisted on flushing the PW-1 water from the system and getting two consecutive days of clean tests before the boiling water advisory would be lifted, and that was approved on Saturday. A leak was detected on Friday. It is at a 120-degree turn as the water comes off the water tower driveway and down onto Washington Street, which they planned to address after the holiday. It was asked how the infrastructure of the water lines was. It was answered that the lines were installed in the 1990s, and compared to some areas in New York State, they didn't have any asbestos, lead, and are newer lines.

3. Code Enforcement report—3 certificates of occupancy were issued and working with the church to get a floodplain permit. 6 hours of annual training were also completed.

4. WWTP report- Average daily flow was approximately 28,000 gallons. Routine maintenance has been achieved, and their budget for next year has been approved and accepted.

5. Water & Sewer Report - \$18,373 of the \$31,158 owed water bills have come in. \$50,172 out of the \$57,165 owed in sewer bills have come in.

6. Pratt Rock report – Mason apologized that there is no formal report. He reported that some of the plantings had been installed at Pratt Rock Park, and the next ones will be planted by the next meeting. The town has received several small donations through its donation link. Mason also mentioned that a DEC Smart Growth grant application for \$125,000 has been submitted to connect Main Street to the upper entrance of Pratt Rock Park via a sidewalk.

New Business:

1. Delinquent Bills – Supervisor Cross presented the delinquent water bills totaling \$14,173.28 and delinquent sewer bills \$7,682.66, noting these amounts could change slightly before being sent to the county.

A motion was made by Councilmember Peckham and seconded by Councilman Chase to approve sending the delinquent water bills totaling \$14,173.28 to Greene County.

Ayes 5 Cross, Peckham, Martin, Ruehlmann, Chase

Nays 0

A motion was made by Councilmember Peckham and seconded by Councilmember Ruehlmann to approve sending the delinquent sewer bills totaling \$7,682.66 to Greene County.

Ayes 5 Cross, Peckham, Martin, Chase, Ruehlmann

Nays 0

2. A resolution in support of Congressman Nick Langworthy's Energy Choice Act in Opposition to Government-Mandated Natural Gas Bans- Supervisor Cross explained that as of January 1st, 2026, New York State plans to no longer allow new builds to use gas, fuel, or oil to heat their houses. Congressman Langworthy has requested the board to consider a resolution that it should be a personal choice what people use to heat their homes. Councilman Chase read some of

House Resolution 3699, which would prevent state or local governments from prohibiting or limiting energy service based on the type or source of energy. Councilman Chase expressed concern that the resolution was too broad and would limit the town's ability to regulate their own municipality. He noted it might also void the towns recently passed solar law from 2022. After discussing it, the board decided to table the resolution.

3. Playground Installation- It was reported that the playground equipment was delivered to the ball field. Thank you, John Young, for helping with the delivery! After a short discussion it was decided to go on the right side by the soccer field.
4. Bridge Camera – Melissa Peters is concerned about the sheriff's camera installed on the bridge, viewing it as a violation of privacy rights protected by the Fourth Amendment. She stated when she asked Supervisor Cross about the camera that he stated he liked it because if a child was abducted it would help track that car down. Melissa explained that she had researched stranger abduction for 2022, and it was 104 cases nationwide. She felt the surveillance measure was disproportionate to the problem. Supervisor Cross explained yes amber alerts involving a car would be able to be spotted from the camera, but it also identified all "hot plates" (any vehicle involved in a crime). Some residents were in support of the camera as a public safety tool. Others questioned why technology wasn't being used to address more pressing concerns like speeding. It was suggested if the camera was used to detect speed that would serve more of a purpose. Supervisor Cross finalized the conversation with that it was a pilot program to test the solar panel, and the current camera would be moved by the end of the month to another area in the county.
5. Budget Workshop Dates – Supervisor Cross mentioned a preliminary budget is expected to show approximately a 5.5% increase though the exact amount would be uncertain due to the ambulance costs. After a short discussion budget workshop dates were set for October 22nd and 29th at 5:30 PM.

A motion was made by Councilman Martin and seconded by Councilman Chase to move to Executive session at 9:13 PM to discuss personnel.

Ayes 5 Cross, Peckham, Martin, Ruehlmann, Chase
Nays 0

A motion was made by Councilman Martin and seconded by Councilmember Ruehlmann to come back from Executive session at 9:18 PM.

Ayes 5 Cross, Peckham, Martin, Ruehlmann, Chase
Nays 0

A motion was made by Councilman Chase and seconded by Councilmember Peckham to approve the Union contract for January 1st, 2026, to December 31st, 2028.

Ayes 5 Cross, Peckham, Martin, Ruehlmann, Chase
Nays 0

6. Appointment of the Assessor – Two candidates were interviewed, and it was of the recommendation of Supervisor Cross and Councilmember Peckham that we hire Michelle Boccanfuso as the new town assessor.

A motion was made by Councilmember Ruehlmann and seconded by Councilman Martin to hire Michelle Boccanfuso to be our town assessor.

Ayes 5 Cross, Peckham, Martin, Ruehlmann, Chase
Nays 0

Jim Thorington, our Greene County Legislature, provided an update on the county ambulance contract. He presented information on a proposed county plan to help with town shares of ambulance costs based on tax levy's, which would provide Prattsville with \$81,288 in reimbursements. Jim explained that the plan had not yet been voted on and would likely fail. He noted there were multiple methods being considered including basing reimbursement on call volume. He mentioned that a special meeting would be held on Wednesday, October 15th, 2026, to discuss the issue further.

A motion was made by Councilmember Ruehlmann and seconded by Councilman Chase to pay the bills on abstract #10 for October.

Ayes 5 Cross, Peckham, Ruehlmann, Chase, Ruehlmann
Nays 0
Absent 0

With no further business, Councilmember Peckham made a motion, seconded by Councilman Martin, to adjourn the meeting at 9:32 p.m.

Ayes 5 Cross, Peckham, Martin, Chase, Ruehlmann
Nays 0
Absent 0

Respectfully Submitted
Theresa Whitworth/Town Clerk