

Town of Prattsville
Monthly Meeting
December 8th, 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, December 8th, 2025, at 7:00 pm.

Present:	Greg Cross	Supervisor
	Joyce Peckham	Councilperson
	Eli Martin	Councilman
	Mason Chase	Councilman
	Heidi Ruehlmann	Councilperson
	Theresa Whitworth	Town Clerk
	William Sutton	Highway Superintendent

Others present: Connie Briggs, Dan Peckham, Deb Dymond, Dave Whitbeck, Michelle Yost, Peter Manning, Melissa Peters, Tim Furstnau, John Lane

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

A motion was made by Councilmember Peckham and seconded by Councilmember Ruehlmann to approve the Clerk's minutes for the Regular meeting for November 14th, 2025, Budget Workshop minutes for November 5th, 2025, and Ambulance Meeting for October 30th, 2025.

A motion was made by Councilmember Ruehlmann and seconded by Councilman Chase to approve the Monthly Financials report.

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR/CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE COMMUNITY

Melissa Peters questioned the board's process for reviewing the financial report, asking what board members look for when approving it and noting they haven't asked questions or discussion about the report during meetings. Supervisor Cross noted that there were questions asked about the financial report in the past. The report provides a monthly rundown of budget expenditures and year-to-date figures. The board reviews the report to ensure it stays within budget. Councilmember Ruehlmann noted that the report is a long report and would be very time-consuming to go over every line during the meeting, and when something comes up, they do ask questions.

Melissa Peters then asked about the status of the camera on the bridge that was supposed to be removed. Supervisor Cross explained that he was originally told it would be down by October 30th, and then was informed by the sheriff that it would be removed in a couple of weeks, which had now been exceeded by 4-5 weeks. Supervisor Cross agreed to follow up with the Sheriff regarding the camera's removal.

Deb Dymond complimented the new flower box decorations in town, saying that they were a nice addition to the kissing balls and Christmas lights.

Reports:

1. Highway – William Sutton reported an issue with the excavator, which requires a \$5,200 repair for a new wire harness. After diagnostics that cost \$2,000, the recommendation was to replace the entire wire harness. The board discussed the age of the excavator and whether the repair was worth it. William Sutton said the excavator is one of their most frequently used pieces of equipment and that the repair would be cheaper and preferable. He also said that he would like to get a guarantee from the company that this will be the final fix and cost.

2. Water District report – David Whitbeck reported that the daily flow is back down to approximately 23,487 gallons a day. On November 10th, the water tower level had dropped to 47.6% and after investigating, it was discovered that the pump switch had been accidentally turned off while a new sampling hose was installed. The pump was turned back on, and the tower has returned to normal operating levels. Dave also reported that the ballfield was completely winterized and the canisters were taken to the waste facility.

3. WWTP report- Dave Whitbeck reported the daily average flow was 23,000 gallons. Kinsley came to service the main generator, and they recommended changing the engine block heater. Currently waiting on a quote on how much that will cost. All reports were filed.

4. Code Enforcement report—2 permits were issued. Reported that he is working with the church regarding their floodplain compliance.

5. Pratt Rock report – Councilman Chase reported that the contracted work for Pratt Rock has been completed. He will arrange a site visit with DEC in the spring to verify the work. Councilman Chase said the DASNY contracts had been signed, and we should be able to submit for the grant reimbursement. He also mentioned that the native plants were planted around the horse's grave and asked Bill Sutton to have the guys not weed-whack as much around there.

New Business:

1. Michelle Yost – Prattsville Hiking Trail Connector – Michelle Yost introduced Peter Manning from the Catskill Mountains Club. He presented the proposal for a trail system connecting the Huntersfield Creek Falls Trail to the Pratt Rock Trail. He explained that this project would fulfil a longstanding goal from a 2007 parks master plan to create a safe pedestrian route to Pratt Rock that wouldn't require walking on the highway shoulder. Mr. Manning displayed a map showing the three proposed trails, which are located for viewing at the Town Hall. He explained that they had received approval from the New York City DEP (who owns the land) to create the trail system. The Catskill Mountain Club would provide volunteer labor to build the trails, while future maintenance would need to be coordinated with local volunteers and possibly the highway department for periodic mowing of certain sections. Michelle Yost also suggested that some towns have created a volunteer group to help with maintaining their paths by putting up signs to join the group, and ways to let the group know something needs to be taken care of right on the trails. The board expressed support for the project, recognizing it would enhance recreational opportunities in Prattsville and potentially attract more visitors to the town. Supervisor Cross also thanked Michelle Yost for all her fine work on this project and the Huntersfield Creek Falls Trail.

2. End of Year Meeting- The board scheduled the end-of-year meeting for December 29th, 2025, at 5:30 PM.

3. Dog Catcher Letter of Interest- Supervisor Cross reported that Sandy Martin and Gary Truesdell had submitted a letter of interest to serve as the town's dog catchers. The board was pleased to have applicants for this position after previously advertising without success.

A motion was made by Supervisor Cross and seconded by Councilman Martin to appoint Sandy Martin and Gary Truesdell as the Town of Prattsville's dog catchers.

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

4. Flower Basket estimate— Supervisor Cross presented a bid from Gardens by Trista. It was noted that Gardens by Trista reached out, wanting to know if they could put a bid in. Clerk Whitworth did try to reach out to Hillhaven, who had done the flower baskets for years, but has not heard back from them. Last year, the flowers cost \$1,370, while Gardens by Trista's bid came in at \$1,285. The board decided to postpone a decision until next month to allow time to potentially secure one more bid.

5. Electrical Estimate – The Supervisor discussed issues with non-functioning streetlights throughout town. An estimate of \$1,820 was received just to diagnose the problems with the streetlights and the electricity in the meeting room. The board discussed whether this cost was reasonable just for diagnostics and considered potential alternatives. Including asking other nearby towns who they use for electrical work. The consensus was to continue searching for other electricians who might offer more reasonable rates.

In a special presentation, Supervisor Cross recognized Highway Superintendent William Sutton for his 29 years of service to the Town of Prattsville, as this was his last meeting before retirement. Thank you, William Sutton, for all your hard work and years of dedication!

Before adjourning, the board discussed the Ashland Ambulance contract that had arrived late. Supervisor Cross had reached out to Supervisor Tompkins last month to discuss the contract to see if Supervisor Tompkins could make it more like last years contract and also change the payment so that it is due later or split into two payments. Th Supervisor Tompkins did change the payment to February 1st and March 1st. Supervisor Cross expressed frustration with the process but acknowledged the necessity of the service.

A motion was made by Councilman Chase and seconded by Councilmember Ruehlman to sign the intermunicipal agreement between the towns of Ashland and Prattsville.

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

A motion was made by Councilman Chase and seconded by Councilman Martin to pay the bills on abstract #12 for December.

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

With no further business, Councilmember Peckham made a motion, seconded by Councilman Chase, to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 p.m.

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

Respectfully Submitted
Theresa Whitworth/Town Clerk