

Town of Prattsville  
Monthly Meeting  
April 13th, 2026

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, April 13th, 2026, at 7:00pm.

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

Others present: Deb & Jim Dymond, Carole Cangelosi, David Whitbeck, Paul Brody, Connie Briggs, John Lane, Melissa Peters

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

A motion was made by Councilman Chase and seconded by Councilperson Ruehlmann to approve of the Clerks minutes for the Regular meeting of March 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026, and Special meeting of March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

|          |                                 |
|----------|---------------------------------|
| Ayes 4   | Cross, Martin, Ruehlmann, Chase |
| Nays 0   |                                 |
| Absent 1 | Peckham                         |

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

|          |                                 |
|----------|---------------------------------|
| Ayes 4   | Cross, Martin, Ruehlmann, Chase |
| Nays 0   |                                 |
| Absent 1 | Peckham                         |

Comments from the floor-

Paul Brody addressed the board with multiple neighbor-related concerns. He explained that he hasn't had any neighbors in his 35-year residence until recently and now faces three separate problems. First Brody described a septic system issue with a new neighbor who purchased a house that had been vacant for 35 years. The septic system appears to be only a 60-gallon tank made of risers, which is failing and could be causing environmental concerns. The new homeowner, a schoolteacher, was unaware of the septic problems when she purchased the property. Brody notes that the homeowner has given spoken permission for the building inspector to examine the property and is willing to work with engineers to resolve the issue. Second, Brody complained about another neighbor with an army generator that runs continuously from morning through night. The generator creates noise and vibrations that shake his house and crack tiles. The generator has been in operation for about a year, and the neighbor has been working on building his house for the last 3 to 4 years and Brody believes he has no building permit. Third, Brody ongoing theft problems, expressing frustration with police response. He also states that the generator makes it hard to hear thieves when they are stealing. He also states that when he provides suspect information officers simply call the suspects who deny involvement.

Board members discussed potential solutions. The board acknowledged that while they cannot address the theft issue, they could investigate the septic and generator problem. The Supervisor noted

that the septic system issue could be addressed through CWC (Catskill Watershed Corporation), which helps homeowners install proper septic systems. For the generator issue, the Town does not have a noise ordinance, but the building inspector could investigate whether proper permits were obtained for construction.

REPORTS:

1. Highway – Superintendent Olmstead submitted a written report, March has been full as they transition into the new season and equipment has held up with only minor repairs with normal maintenance. Almost all of the roads have been swept and culverts have been evaluated.
2. Water District report – David Whitbeck reported that the water district had an average flow of 30,000 gallons last month, which is slightly higher than normal but coincides with waste water readings but possibly slightly higher due to a leaky toilet. All chlorine and bacteria samples came back satisfactory, and the monthly report was submitted to the DOH. Regarding the ballfield, Dave started up the system last week and is waiting for the arsenic and magnesium results to forward to the DOH before the system can be fully operational.
3. WWTP report – average daily flow was 29,000 gallons. All monthly compliance samples were delivered to Adirondack and Siewert was on site to install the backup floats this month. Everything is running smoothly.
4. Code Enforcement Report- 1 permit for a standby generator was issued, 1 violation letter was sent for multiple campers on Washington st, and 12 hours of training were done last month.
5. Pratt Rock – Councilman Chase reported that he has drafted a permit application for the DOT grant for the sidewalks. The department typically waives fees for such applications, though if not waived, costs are generally reasonable. He will present the application to be reviewed by board members before submission.
6. Tax Collector Report- The tax collector reported sending in a third \$50,000 check to the county, with tax payments coming in slowly but steadily. Second notices will be sent out, potentially end of May or early June.
7. Water Billing Report- Water collections totaled \$14,521 toward the \$24,618 billed, representing just over halfway to full collection.

BUSINESS:

1. Septic Study– The Supervisor provided background on the DEP-funded septic study for accepting septage from local haulers. Two towns in the watershed participated: Prattsville and Windham. Both completed feasibility studies, with Windham already moving to the design phase. The study indicates Prattsville could potentially accept 1,000-2,000 gallons per day, or approximately 4,000-14,000 gallons per week, representing 1-3 truckloads weekly. The feasibility study projects annual revenues of \$104,000 against increased operating and maintenance costs of \$113,000, creating a net loss scenario. Supervisor Cross stated that the next step is to do the design phase of the project, this process is a bit backwards as the DEP would need to do the design phase to see what the actual costs would be for the town. Board members noted that while DEP needs disposal locations for septage currently hauled to distant facilities, the town must ensure financial benefit before proceeding. The design phase would be fully funded by DEP through CWC, with final construction decisions made after negotiating operational terms.

A motion was made by Councilman Chase and seconded by Supervisor Cross to move forward with the design phase for the septic study.

Ayes 3            Cross, Ruehlmann, Chase

Nays 0

Absent 1        Peckham

Abstain 1      Martin

2. Payroll Service – The board had received three estimates from Payco, Paychex and Recalibrate. Paychex was eliminated as the most expensive with the first year discount taken out. The remaining two were very similar in pricing. Payco offered set up fees of \$300, with quarterly and W-2 processing at \$287. Recal's setup was \$299 with quarterly processing and W-2 processing at \$285. Both services charge additional weekly processing fees per check and specialty fees for off-schedule payments. Clerk Whitworth noted that Recal representative conducted an in-person presentation and seemed more hands-on, while Payco provided only a basic quote without detailed consultation. Recal also works with the town's new insurance company, creating potential integration benefits. The transition would occur at the end of June to avoid mid-quarter complications.  
A motion was made by Councilman Chase and seconded by Supervisor Cross to switch to Recalibrate for payroll service starting in June.  
Ayes 4            Cross, Martin, Ruehlmann, Chase  
Nays 0  
Absent 1        Peckham
3. Town Logo – Melissa Peters presented a comprehensive proposal for a town logo contest to replace the current outdated logo. The proposal includes engaging students at the schools and community artists. The contest would begin in late August/ early September to align with the school year and to possibly allow teachers to incorporate local history education. Submissions would be limited to hand-drawn sketches rather than professional computer graphics to maintain an authentic, homegrown appearance. All AI generated submissions would be prohibited. The Board suggested the requirements be that it have Prattsville and Established in 1824. Mrs. Peters offered to donate digitization services to create a professional brand package including templates for letterhead, social media graphics, and business cards. Community members have already offered to fund a prize for the winner. Mrs. Peters said she would email the board with a more written proposal and keep them in the loop with more details to come.
4. Town Use Forms – The board reviewed three town use applications. The softball league requested use of the Conine Ballfield from May 17<sup>th</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup>. Huntersfield Christian Training Center requested to sell ribs from May to October, 10 am to 4 pm on the Town Green. An adult soccer group requested use of the Conine soccer field on Wednesday evenings in May and June from 6 to 8 pm. All applications were approved pending receipt of required insurance documentation from the softball league and the Huntersfield Christian Training Center.
5. Resolution for Court Books– Supervisor Cross expressed significant concerns about a new state requirement for towns to pass resolutions certifying court book audits, replacing the previous simple letter process. He stated that he is worried that signing a resolution certifying the books are correct when they contain known errors could create liability for the town board. He questioned whether board members are qualified to conduct proper audits and suggested that professional auditing might be necessary despite the costs involved. It was also mentioned that the letter that the Comptrollers Office sent as for the dockets to be reviewed and those were not presented to the board. Board members discussed the implications of certifying incorrect books versus the expense of professional audits for relatively small amounts of court revenue, 2 residents did offer to possibly look over the books. The Supervisor decided to request an extension from the state and gather more information about how other municipalities handle this requirement before proceeding. No motion was made and this item.
6. Resolution for Highway Department – The board reviewed the DOT required resolution for highway work permits. The documentation included contract elements and resolution template from the Department of Transportation covering the town's authority to work on state roads. DOT advised that passing the resolution eliminates the need for a separate \$200 annual insurance policy previously required, as the resolution provides adequate indemnification for DOT.

RESOLUTION NO. 2 OF 2026  
DATED: APRIL 13TH, 2026

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING COMMITMENT FOR NYS DOT HIGHWAY WORK PERMIT

WHEREAS, the Town of Prattsville is often required to perform work in and around roadways owned and operated by the New York State Department of Transportation; and  
WHEREAS, said agreement provides for the Town to defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the State of New York, its Officers, Officials, Agents in conjunction with such; and  
WHEREAS, the Town of Prattsville is authorized to enter into an agreement with the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) in connection with highway work permits periodically issued by the NYSDOT to the Town of Prattsville for work within the bounds of the State Highway Right-of-Way; and  
WHEREAS, the Agreement shall secure the Town's faithful performance with the terms of any permit issued by the NYSDOT. The Agreement shall also require the Town to defend, indemnify and hold harmless the State of New York, its Officials, Officers, Agents and Employees for any damages arising out of the Town's operations conducted under a permit; and  
WHEREAS, the Agreement shall apply to all highway work permits issued to the Town by the NYSDOT until the Town requests that it be cancelled; and  
NOW, THEREFORE IT BE RESOLVED that the Town Board of the Town of Prattsville is hereby authorizing said Agreement and undertaking the administrative act necessary to effectuate the terms of said Agreement.

A motion was made by Councilmember Ruehlmann and seconded by Councilman Chase to approve Resolution number 2 of 2026 for Authorizing Commitment for NYS DOT Highway Work Permit

Ayes 4            Cross, Martin, Ruehlmann, Chase  
Nays 0  
Absent 1        Peckham

7. Highway Truck – The board reviewed three state bid proposals for replacing the problematic 2014 Dodge truck. All quotes were for Ford F-350 trucks with gas engines rather than diesel to avoid the reliability issues experienced with the current vehicle. DePaula Ford quoted \$54,358, Friendly Ford quoted \$54,000 and Davidson Ford quoted \$54,889.86. The highway superintendent recommended option three from Davidson, as it features additional safety equipment including a needed backup alarm that the other options lacked. Total project costs including the truck chassis (\$54,889.86), aluminum flatbed body (\$19,995), salter (\$7,495), and plow (\$11,295) would amount to \$93,674.86. The highway superintendent estimated the current truck could be sold for at least \$20,000 conservatively, potentially more, bringing the net costs to approximately \$74,674.68. Delivery timeline was projected 45 – 60 days. Board members questioned whether other manufacturers like GMC or Chevrolet might offer better pricing and suggested exploring additional options before making a final decision. The Supervisor noted concerns about spending \$90,000 but acknowledged the necessity of reliable equipment, no motion was made and it was decided the Highway Superintendent would investigate costs of other trucks.
8. Barney Moore Road – The highway superintendent reported an ongoing road crack that has persisted for over a year, with the underlying slope continuing to deteriorate. Rather than attempting costly repairs to stabilize the failing area, he proposed approaching adjacent property owners to purchase a small section of land to relocate the roadway from the problem area. A draft letter was prepared for Nina Levinson, who owns most of the property needed.

Board members agreed the approach was sound but recommended removing specific acreage references from the letter, instead focusing on the general concept and arranging site visits to determine actual land needs. The highway superintendent will revise the letter to remove acreage specifications and initiate discussions with affected property owners about the potential land acquisition.

9. Volunteer Cleanup Day- Discussion focused on scheduling a community volunteer cleanup day for the town green focusing on the flower beds and general beautification. Board members noted limited participation in past efforts but agreed to continue the tradition. Various dates in late April and early May were discussed with consideration for weather, conflicting events, volunteer availability and wanting it done before Memorial Day. It was decided to do it on April 25<sup>th</sup> at 10am on Town Green.

A motion was made by Councilman Chase and seconded by Councilman Martin to pay the bills on abstract #4 for April.

Ayes 4                      Cross, Martin, Ruehlmann, Chase  
Nays 0  
Absent 1                    Peckham

With no further business a motion was made by Supervisor Cross and seconded by Councilman Martin to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 pm.

Ayes 4                      Cross, Martin, Ruehlmann, Chase  
Nays 0  
Absent 1                    Peckham

Respectfully Submitted  
Theresa Whitworth  
Town Clerk