# Town of Prattsville
# Budget Workshop
# October 21st, 2026

The Town Board of the Town of Prattsville, NY, and County of Greene, NY, held a Budget Workshop at the Prattsville Town Hall on Thursday, October 21st, 2026, at 6 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 Briggs

Supervisor Cross opened the meeting at 6 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

General Budget -

Supervisor Personal Services – Supervisor Cross explained that a $300 increase for the Supervisor position had been added to the draft budget while the town expected to be under the tax cap. When the ambulance district figures came in and the town was no longer under the cap, Supervisor Cross withdrew the $300 increase as part of the effort to close the gap.

Veterans – Supervisor Cross noted that $1,000 was added to Veteran Services to cover potential maintenance of the veterans' banners.

Independent Auditing – Councilman Chase asked whether the change of auditors had produced savings. Clerk Whitworth explained that the 2025 audit cost and help for this year has totaled just over $31,000. Supervisor Cross also reported that the previous auditors did send a bill for the previous year that still needs to be paid. After some negotiation he had the bill lowered by 20%, those bills will be at the next regular meeting. Councilman Chase suggested lower that line item $6,000 and Clerk Whitworth suggested lowering it $5,000 to not cut it to close. The Board agreed that a $5,000 reduction was reasonable based on the year-end projection.

Historian- Councilman Chase asked if it was correct that the town currently has no historian. Supervisor Cross said that is true but that the line item needs to stay in the budget in case someone is finally found to fill it. Councilman Chase proposed reducing it to $1 and redirect the savings to the museum. Supervisor Cross said he preferred $50 and the Board agreed.

Museum – Councilman Chase proposed transferring the $500 saved from the Town Historian budget line to the Museum appropriation and adding another $500 to bring the total to $7,000. He expressed support for maintaining a cultural center in Town and stated that he was reluctant to reduce funding further than necessary. Supervisor Cross asked whether Councilman Chase was familiar with the Museum's finances, noting that its most recent report showed a deficit of approximately $10,000 for the year, which remained a concern. Councilman Chase stated that the Museum Board was working toward self-sufficiency, although it would take time, and had improved its planning, contractor bidding procedures, and spending practices. Councilman Martin explained that the earlier reduction was intended as "tough love" to encourage self-sufficiency rather than as criticism. He supported transferring the $500 to bring the appropriation to $6,500 but stated that this was the maximum amount he would support. Councilman Chase and Supervisor Cross supported funding of $7,000. Councilperson Peckham stated that she would not object to $7,000, provided the Board closely

reviewed the Museum's progress next year and required regular reports. The Museum appropriation was set at $7,000. A letter will be sent to the Museum advising that monthly reports are required.

Youth Program –Councilman Martin stated that, following the previous meeting, he believed the $1,500 reduction in Museum funding could support a one-year pilot program offering Friday swim lessons in 2027 to evaluate attendance and costs. He connected this proposal to approving the pay increase requested for the Youth Program Director. Supervisor Cross reported that the program has operated four days per week for several years and that counselors had indicated they did not wish to work on Fridays. Councilmember Peckham stated that a Friday program should not proceed unless the donation a resident had offered to secure was received. Resident Connie Briggs questioned whether the Board fully understood the proposed raises. She noted that the Director's salary would increase from $2,000 to $2,500, a 25% increase, and that another counselor would receive $1 per hour above minimum wage. Supervisor Cross explained that the Director's position is salaried and includes additional responsibilities, such as coordinating with the bus garage and school and communicating with parents. Councilman Chase asked whether the other counselors might object to the Director's raise. Supervisor Cross stated that he was unsure and that the Director manages the counselors. He also stated that the budget request had been submitted through the same process used by other departments. The Board also discussed concerns that requiring a fifth day could affect counselors' willingness to continue working for the program. The Board agreed to leave the proposed Youth Program budget unchanged and budget for a four-day program. Any fifth day would be contingent upon receipt of the donation and staff willingness to work the additional day, with confirmation to occur at the January organizational meeting.

Public Hearing for Tax Cap Override– After the above changes the budget remained about $3,352 above the tax cap. The Supervisor gave back the $300 raise. Two other reductions were identified after review. The Highway Superintendent's telephone line was reduced from $2,500 to $1,500, saving $1,000. The garbage line, which includes cleanup day, was reduced from $25,000 to $23,000, saving $2,000. The budget was then about $52 over the cap. After further discussion, the highway contingency fund was adjusted from $3,000 to $2,900, bringing the budget under the tax cap. With the budget being brought under the tax cap the public hearing to override the tax cap was no longer needed and canceled.

Public Hearing for the Preliminary Budget-

A motion was made by Councilmember Peckham and seconded by Councilman Chase to open the public hearing for the preliminary budget at 7pm.

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

No discussion was had.

A motion was made by Councilman Chase and seconded by Councilman Martin to close the public hearing for the preliminary budget at 7:02 pm.

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

A motion was made by Supervisor Cross and seconded by Councilman Chase to adopt the preliminary Budget.

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

With no further business, Councilmember Peckham made a motion, seconded by Councilman Chase, to adjourn the meeting at 7:03 p.m.

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

Respectfully Submitted
Theresa Whitworth/Town Clerk