

Town of Prattsville
Monthly Meeting
July 14th, 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, May 14th, 2025, at 7:00 pm.

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

Absent:	Eli Martin	Councilman
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Others present: Connie Brigg, Debbie & Jim Dymond, Charlie Santo, Dan Peckham, Carole Cangelosi, Tony Bluestone, Anne Donavon, Karen Johnson, Stephen Birnbaum, Tim Furstnau, John Gross, Patrick McGee, Scott Tyree, David Whitbeck

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

A motion was made by Councilperson Ruehlmann and seconded by Councilman Chase to approve the Clerk's minutes for the Regular meeting on June 9th, 2025.

Ayes 4 Cross, Peckham, Chase, Ruehlmann

Nays 0

Absent 1 Martin

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

Ayes 4 Cross, Peckham, Chase Ruehlmann

Nays 0

Absent 1 Martin

COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR/CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE COMMUNITY

John Gross spoke about the Greene County Food Security Coalition that is a network of food pantries, feeding agencies, local food producers, volunteers and community members that have come together to close the gap on funding cuts and increased demand. There is a total of 15 locations. Just recently they received a large donation of 10 tons of goat cheese that they were able to distribute to all 15 locations and many more. John brought some in to share. He would just like more of the community to know of their presence and if anyone is interested in volunteering should contact them.

Reports:

1. Highway – Everything is running smoothly. Another person has applied for the job and should be starting at the end of the month.
2. Water District report – Average daily flow was approximately 42,976 gallons, Jim Dymond was reached out to about looking for a leak. He found one in the trailer park and shut off the water until fixed. Jim and Rural Water also determined that the high usage might just be because it is so hot out.
3. Code Enforcement report-- 1 permit

4. WWTP report – Average daily flow was approximately 27,000 gallons. A NYCDEP inspection was conducted, it is believed that everything passed.
5. Tax Collector report – General, Highway, Fire, Sewer, Water, Lighting and Ambulance are all paid in full, \$200,000 has been paid to Greene County. 73 seconded notices were mailed out and the books will be closed soon.
6. Water billing report – \$18452 has come in out of \$23,800 owed water bills. \$34,484 out of the \$57,165 have come in for the sewer bills.
7. Pratt Rock report – Quarterly reports were submitted to DEC Senator Hinchey's office has accepted the scope of work change. The committee reviewed bids and should be voted on by the board.

New Business:

1. Pratt Rock – Supervisor Cross recommended using the remaining economic fund and bond money to help pay for the project upfront. Councilman Chase agreed and also suggested that the board review the committee's findings. He proposed removing the minor plantings from the contract scope of work, estimating a savings of approximately \$30,000. Chase noted that the plants could be purchased privately at a lower cost, and he has several volunteers willing to do the planting. He recommended using the savings to extend the path resurfacing further toward the entrance. The board agreed this was a good plan.
The board also agreed to send the contract to the attorney for review and to schedule a special meeting to approve and sign it. Additionally, the board reviewed the resolution to appoint Steve Whitesell as the board's consultant. Whitesell requested \$6,000 for his services, but Councilman Chase suggested offering \$5,000 instead. He will contact Whitesell to negotiate, and if an agreement is reached, the board will approve the resolution at the special meeting.
2. Zadock Pratt Museum – Karen Johnson spoke about Matt Cunningham, who is a Pratt descendant who came to visit the Pratt Museum. He was impressed with all the museum had to offer about Pratt and even learned new things about his family. Mr. Cunningham said that he might be willing to donate some of his personal pieces to the museum. The Museum also held a lecture about restoring documents this past weekend and had a great turnout.
3. Mountain Top Cares Coalition - Patrick McGee wanted to speak to the board about what Mountain Top Cares Coalition is about. They currently travel around the mountain top to help provide recovery and support to addicts and their families. They host weekly and monthly private events and try to include the community as well. In 2 years, they have been able to help around 242 people and their families through recovery. They are appreciative of Prattsville's support over this time as one of the first communities to listen and willing to put up Narcan boxes available to the community.
4. Knotweed – Tim Furstnau wanted to formally thank the town for allowing the knotweed research to go on in Prattsville. Sadly the last grant he applied for they did not receive. Tim is going to keep applying for more grants in the future as this research is helping with scientists all over the country. Tim would like to continue to do research at the location in return, he will continue to clear and maintain the site and trails. The Town Board agreed and thanked Tim for all he does at the site.
5. 607 Rider Request – Supervisor Cross spoke with our attorney and she informed Greg that allowing the UTV's on the town roads does not put the town at any extra risk compared to a car driving on our roads. The board agreed to have Diana write up a law that allows them to use our roads.

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6. Town Use Form – Calli Goldstein, Prattsville Art Center, and Lexington Klubhouse would like to use the Town Green on July 26th, August 2nd, and August 9th to weave knotweed, make paper with knotweed, and make a solar cooker. There were questions about the spread of knotweed to the town green. Tim Furstnau said that he met with Calli earlier that day to discuss transporting the knotweed safely to the town green by drying it out. That process takes about 45 days, he believes Calli will be changing the days because of that to the fall. The board said they approved the request.

Supervisor Cross let the board know he met Cristina Cookingham the New York State animal health inspector. Greg will need to purchase a few items for the dog catcher position. He will be donating some of the items as well, and they will all be stored in the Town Hall.

A motion was made by Councilperson Peckham and seconded by Councilperson Ruehlmann to move to executive session to discuss the union contract at 8:00 pm.

Ayes 4 Cross, Peckham, Chase, Ruehlmann

Nays 0

Absent 1 Martin

A motion was made by Councilperson Peckham and seconded by Councilperson Ruehlmann to come back from executive session at 8:27 pm.

Ayes 4 Cross, Peckham, Chase, Ruehlmann

Nays 0

Absent 1 Martin

A motion was made by Councilman Chase and seconded by Councilperson Ruehlmann to pay the bills on abstract #7 for July.

Ayes 4 Cross, Peckham, Chase, Ruehlmann

Nays 0

Absent 1 Martin

With no further business, Councilperson Peckham made a motion, seconded by Councilman Chase, to adjourn the meeting at 8:29 p.m.

Ayes 4 Cross, Peckham, Chase, Ruehlmann

Nays 0

Absent 1 Martin

Respectfully Submitted

Theresa Whitworth/Town Clerk