

Town of Prattsville  
Budget Workshop  
November 5th, 2025

The Town Board of the Town of Prattsville, NY, and County of Greene, NY, held a Budget Workshop at the Prattsville Town Hall on Wednesday, November 5th, 2025, at 5:30 pm.

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

Others present: Connie Brigg, Dan Peckham, Bonita Chase

Supervisor Cross opened the meeting at 5:30 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

A motion was made by Supervisor Cross and seconded by Councilman Martin to open the public hearing for Local Law # 3 to override the property tax cap at 6:02 P.M.

Ayes 4                      Cross, Martin, Ruehlmann, Chase

Nays 0

Absent 1                      Peckham

There was a brief discussion, then the board proceeded to vote on adopting the local law.

A motion was made by Councilperson Ruehlmann and seconded by Councilman Martin to approve Local Law #3 to override the tax levy limit for fiscal year 2026.

Ayes 4                      Cross, Martin, Ruehlmann, Chase

Nays 0

Absent 1                      Peckham

A motion was made by Supervisor Cross and seconded by Councilman Martin to close the public hearing for Local Law #3 to override the property tax cap at 6:05 P.M.

Ayes 4                      Cross, Martin, Ruehlmann, Chase

Nays 0

Absent 1                      Peckham

The board reviewed the budget line by line. Key points of discussion included –  
General Budget -

Ambulance – Supervisor Cross noted that the county is going to be taking over this line item, which is the Greene Emergency Medical System, and will be taken out of the budget.

Ballfield expenses-Electrical was reduced from \$2,400 to \$1,500.

Parks – The contractual expense was reduced from \$3,000 to \$2,000

A significant discussion occurred regarding fund balance usage between Supervisor Cross and Bonita Chase. The former official expressed concern that the town was not using enough fund balance to offset expenses for the taxpayers and that the town board was not getting enough information on the fund

balance. She noted that before she left, the town had accumulated \$658,000 in fund balance. Supervisor Cross acknowledged that they do have a fund balance, but for the second year, they would be putting in \$130,000 to help taxpayers. If that continues to happen at some point, the town will have no safety net for unexpected projects like a water main leaking or fixing the town's highway garage roof. Supervisor Cross also noted that when Bonita was let go from the Town, she told Supervisor Cross that the Government would be coming for around \$200,000 for FEMA projects.

#### Highway Budget- No changes

#### Water Budget –

The Board discussed the recent water leak that cost approximately \$15,000 - \$20,000 to locate and repair. The leak had caused the pump to run constantly, driving up electricity costs to approximately \$2,000 per month. With electricity rates also rising, the Board approved the budget line-item source of supply to go from \$6000 to \$12000.

With the leak happening, it has been noted that there is a need to replace non-functional water meters. If all the water meters had been working, it would have been easier to find the leak. The quote that was received for new meters would cost around \$325 per meter. For line-item Transmission and distribution, the Board went from \$2000 to \$3950 to provide new meters every year.

With these changes to the Water Budget, it was considered raising the water rates by approximately \$25 per billing cycle to cover these costs and potentially adjust overage charges for high water users. Supervisor Cross said that he would contact the Town Attorney to see what the Town needed to do to make these changes.

#### Cemetery Budget-

Cemetery Upkeep of Grounds- Another discussion was had about whether it is the Town's responsibility to repair headstones or should it be the family's responsibility. Supervisor Cross noted that they decided to fix 5 headstones this year and had received positive feedback from the community about it. Additionally, some of the fallen headstones that they plan to repair next year may not have any current family to maintain them.

The Board decided to keep this in the budget.

#### Lighting Budget –

The budget remained the same, but it was noted that some streetlights might need repair.

#### Ambulance Budget –

Ashland Ambulance gave its budget to the Town of Prattsville. The total of the budget was \$741,295.56. The Town of Prattsville is expected to pay 55.8% of that amount, totaling \$413,642.92. The County has agreed to provide the town with \$72,013.43 to help offset the cost, which brings the town portion down to \$341,629.49. There were several concerns raised by board members and residents about the lack of financial transparency and the call volume, as Lexington and Ashland had the same amount and which seems statistically unlikely. Supervisor Cross mentioned Councilman Chase's idea of going by a three-year average for percentages. Councilman Chase said that taking the

Budget Workshop  
November 5th, 2025  
Page 3

last three years (44%, 47% and 55.8%), our percentage should be around 49.17% which would bring our total budget to approximately \$364,000. Councilman Chase offered to draft an email to send to the Town of Ashland board with their proposal. The board agreed this was a good idea and said that Ashland agreed to this, there would be less conflict about getting the breakdown of the financials and money they might be holding of Prattsville's.

With no further business, Councilman Chase made a motion, seconded by Councilmember Ruehlmann, to adjourn the meeting at 6:55 p.m.

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

Respectfully Submitted  
Theresa Whitworth/Town Clerk