VILLAGE OF ROCKDALE

Board Meeting Minutes of September 1, 2026

I. Call to Order

Village President Mr. Wyke called to order the regular meeting of the Rockdale Village Board at 7:00 p.m. on September 1, at the Village Municipal Building, 79 Moen Avenue, Rockdale, Illinois.

II. Roll Call

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, Mr. Wyke asked for a roll call. Trustee Mr. Califello was present along with Mr. Scheidt, Mr. Lorenc, Mr. Cooling, Mr. Pirc and Mr. Stadler. Also present in person were Deputy Police Chief Mr. Robert Baikie, Public Works Director Sean Smego, Public Works Team Lead Matt Lucas, Village Treasurer Steve Lucas, and Village Attorney Mr. Michael Stiff.

III. Approval of Previous Minutes

Mr. Wyke asked for a motion to approve the Village Board meeting minutes from August 18, 2026. Mr. Stadler made a motion to approve with the second by Mr. Pirc. Motion carried 6 ayes, 0 nays and 0 absent.

IV. Visitors

None.

V. Bills and Claims.

Mr. Wyke asked for a Motion to approve the Bills & Claims. Mr. Lorenc asked a question about a vendor by the name of Tiger Tough. Deputy Chief Baikie responded to his question. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Lorenc with a second by Mr. Pirc. Motion carried 6 ayes, 0 nays and 0 absent.

VI. Clerk's Receipts

Mr. Wyke asked for a Motion to approve the Clerk's Receipts as submitted. Mr. Cooling made a Motion to approve with a second by Mr. Lorenc. Motion carried 6 ayes, 0 nays and 0 absent.

VII. Treasurer's Receipts

Mr. Wyke asked for a Motion to approve the Treasurer's Receipts. Mr. Cooling made a motion to approve with a second by Mr. Scheidt. Motion carried 6 ayes, 0 nays, 0 absent.

VIII. Treasurer's Report

Mr. Wyke asked for a Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Mr. Scheidt made a Motion to approve with a second by Mr. Lorenc. Motion carried 6 ayes, 0 nays, 0 absent.

IX. Building Permits

None.

X. Communications

Deputy Chief Baikie noted that the Police Department received a thank you note from the Jiminez family. Rockdale officers attended funeral services following the loss of a family member.

XI. Old Business

Trustee Mr. Lorenc noted that workers from the Rockdale Schools had cut back on the vegetation near Ms. Webber's home, although it is still looking very rough. Ms. Webber commented that it was a start and thanked the Board.

XII. New Business

Deputy Police Chief Baikie introduced the Village's newest Peace Officer, Ernesto Colon. Mr. Colon resides in Hanover Park with his wife and two children. The Village Clerk administered the Oath of Office to Officer Colon, who was then welcomed by the Village Board and Staff.

Mr. Stiff took over and presented Ordinance No. 1175, which creates a Division 11 parking-space license in Chapter 26, Businesses, Article 3, Business License Required, of the Rockdale Village Code. This Ordinance was presented for initial discussion at the last meeting, at which the Board determined to set the annual license fee at $50 regardless of the number of parking spaces being leased. A motion was made by Mr. Stadler to approve the ordinance with a second from by Mr. Scheidt. The motion carried 6 ayes, 0 nays, and 0 absent.

Next up was a Resolution ratifying an agreement between the Village of Rockdale and Wags to Wellness Veterinary Care Center for animal sheltering and related services. Mr. Stiff provided the background as to how the Village was left without animal control services following Joliet Township's abrupt termination of the longstanding IGA with the Village. The Village Staff were unsuccessful in locating another governmental animal control agency to provide the same level of service which had been provided by Joliet Township. Wags to Wellness was contacted for providing the sheltering services only. They are unable to provide capture services, wildlife services, or services for exotic animals, but the company was willing to provide sheltering services to dogs and cats picked up by the Village staff and/or Police Department. Thes animals would be transported to the facility by Village personnel. The agreement was for one year, with the possibility of a three-year agreement if the first year was successful. The annual cost was discussed as approximately $5,000, with an initial payment and monthly payments thereafter. The agreement had already been signed because of an emergency involving an animal already in custody. Additional charges could apply for euthanasia and emergency veterinary care when those costs could not be assigned to an owner. Wags to Wishes is affiliated with Wags 2 Wellness and would serve to assist with foster care or adoption of animals not reclaimed by their owner within five days.

Mr. Still also indicated that with the switch from the Joliet Township IGA to Wags 2 Wellness, there would also be a need to amend the Village's dog ordinances. Mr. Lorenc also asked whether the Village had an Ordinance on the books regarding stray cats and/or a prohibition against feeding stray cats. Mr. Stiff indicated that he did not believe there to be a stray cat and/or nuisance ordinance on the books. The Board also discussed trap-neuter-return services for feral cats, including ear tipping, vaccinations, and quoted prices of $130 for spaying and $100 for neutering. A meeting with the proposed service provider was anticipated the following week. A motion to approve Resolution number 877 ratifying the Wags 2 Wellness Agreement was made by Mr. Cooling, with a second by Mr. Stadler. Motion carried, 6 ayes, 0 nays and 0 absent.

The Board next discussed a proposed 50-50 sidewalk replacement at 218 Stillwell. The total project cost was $5,000, with the Village's share being $2,500. Work was to be performed by Greg and Sons, contingent upon receipt and clearance of the property owner's $2,500 payment before work begins. The Public Works Director verified that the sidewalk was eligible for repair. Mr. Stiff then indicated that the repairs met the spirit of the recently adopted written Policy for the 50-50 sidewalk repairs. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Cooling with a second by Mr. Lorenc. Motion carried, 6 ayes, 0 nays and 0 absent.

The next item was discussion regarding a proposed parkway and alley maintenance ordinance. Mr. Stiff presented several samples of how other home rule communities address this topic, including the Village of Manhattan, Countryside and Joliet. Each has a different way of assigning responsibility of parkways to the adjacent property owners or commercial tenants. In addition, the Board discussed the requirement that vegetation overhanging alleys and sidewalks should also be addressed. The discussion also included issues on alley maintenance, specifically areas between gravel alley edges and property lines or structures, limits on flowers and landscaping; clearance for vehicles and fire hydrants; and prohibiting the blowing of grass and leaves into streets. Mr. Stiff indicated that he and the Public Works Director would review the alley sites and he would then bring back a draft ordinance to the Village Board for review. Mr. Stiff also indicated that there will be a need for outreach once the ordinance is finalized so residents will understand the new rules.

Mr. Pirc referenced a substandard restoration of a parkway near his home. Mr. Stiff indicated that this would be subject to a final punch list and Mr. Smego indicated that he would investigate.

XIII. Department Reports

Public works Superintendent Mr. Smego reported that the Mound Lift Station variable-frequency drive had been repaired and that all three pumps were operating. The Ferris St. Well pump has been removed for inspection. Additional information was pending. The well was described as approximately 185 to 200 feet deep and producing about 60,000 gallons per day. Water pressure was affected by Joliet's temporary removal from service of its water tower so it could be painted. Joliet expects the project to be completed in October. Staff reported that weekend recovery was adequate and that operational adjustments were being made.

The Board asked Mr. Smego about the week-long demo of a bobcat-like tractor and potential attachments, including a grapple, brush cutter, enclosed broom, and alley-maintenance equipment. The equipment would be evaluated for alley work, storm-damage cleanup, brush removal, and sweeping.

The Police Department, Deputy Chief Baikie, reported that Officer Nelson had left to join the Plano Police Department, leaving the department one officer short. Ernesto Colon had been hired, and another certified candidate who previously served with the Joliet Police Department had been interviewed. A background investigation is pending.

Mr. Stiff advised that a zoning board meeting would be held September 15 regarding a text amendment permitting truck and semi-tractor dealership sales in Industrial 1 and Industrial 2 districts and clarifying related prohibitions of such sales in the Business and Residential zones. A recommendation from the Zoning Board of Appeals would be forthcoming at the September 15 Board meeting.

XIV. Public Comment

Ms. Webber again thanked the Board and Village staff for their efforts in getting the School District to work on cutting back brush and vegetation near the school park. The work was acknowledged as incomplete but viewed as a positive beginning.

XV. Adjournment

A motion was made by Mr. Cooling to adjourn with a second by Mr. Lorenc. The motion carried 6 ayes, 0 nays and 0 absent.