

VILLAGE OF ROCKDALE
Board Meeting Minutes of
May 16, 2023

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 May 16, 2023, at the Village Municipal Building, 79 Moen Avenue, Rockdale, Illinois.

II. Roll Call

Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the Village Clerk conducted the roll call. Village President Mr. Wyke was present along with Trustees Mr. Lorenc, Mr. Scheidt, Mr. Stadler, Mr. Cooling and Mr. Barnes. Trustee Mr. Pirc was absent. Also present in person were Police Chief Robert Dykstra, Deputy Chief Rob Baikie, Public Works Superintendent Angelo Proia, and Village Attorney Michael Stiff. Village Engineer Dan Malinowski was absent.

III. Approval of Previous Minutes

Village President Mr. Wyke asked for a Motion to approve the Village Board meeting minutes from May 2nd, 2023, as written. Mr. Scheidt made a motion to accept the minutes as written with a second by Mr. Cooling. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays and 1 absent.

IV. Visitors

None

V. Bills and Claims.

Village President Mr. Wyke asked for a Motion to accept the Bills & Claims as submitted. Mr. Cooling made a Motion to accept with a second by Mr. Lorenc. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays and 1 absent.

VI. Clerk's Receipts

Village President Mr. Wyke asked for a Motion to accept the Clerk's Receipts as submitted. Mr. Lorenc made a Motion to accept with a second by Mr. Stadler. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays and 1 absent.

VII. Treasurer's Receipts

Village President Mr. Wyke asked for a Motion to accept the Treasurer's Receipts as submitted. Mr. Scheidt made a Motion to accept with a second from Mr. Lorenc. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays 1 absent.

VIII. Treasurer's Report

Village President Mr. Wyke asked for a Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report as submitted. Mr. Lorenc made a Motion to accept with a second by Mr. Cooling. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays 1 absent.

IX. Building Permits

Permits from 616 Meadow and 333 Thorn were noted.

X. Communications

Police Chief Dykstra informed the Board that Officer Hine's wife was in labor with their first child, a boy who will be named Carson. As of the most recent communication from Officer Hine, Carson will not be born until tomorrow.

XI. Old Business

Mr. Wyke polled the Board for any old business. There was none.

XII. New Business

Mr. Wyke polled the Board for any new business. Mr. Stadler inquired about the recycling container adjacent to the Village Hall. Mr. Stadler noticed that it routinely has non-recyclables left in the bin, and he wondered whether there had been any complaints from ERDS about having to sort through the non-recyclable material. Chief Dykstra

explained that the sorting process takes place at the recycling center. Mr. Stadler was disappointed with the people who take advantage by putting improper items in the bin.

Next on the agenda was the swearing-in of newly elected Trustees Mr. Cooling, Mr. Stadler and Mr. Scheidt for a four-year term. Each Trustee took the Oath as administered by the Village Clerk. Mr. Wyke handed out certificates for each sworn-in Trustee during a round of applause from the Board.

Next on the Agenda was the Discussion regarding the draft Ordinance Amending the Village Code regarding the operation of Food Trucks in the Village. There were only a couple of changes made to the draft Ordinance from the past round of discussions. Police Chief Dykstra explained in detail how his department can no longer legally ask each potential food truck applicant for a fingerprint background check as part of the application process. Mr. Stiff explained to the Board his changes to the draft Ordinance which makes each food truck vendor supply their own electricity and water but not allowing water discharge from the food trucks onto the ground or into the Village sewer system. There were a few other changes made to the suggestions put forth by the Board which included charges for violations. Noise and music from the trucks will be prohibited. There was further discussion as to whether to allow picnic tables or chairs. Since the food trucks are only allowed on private property, it was decided to allow tables and chairs to be supplied by the property owner or the food truck operator. Mr. Barnes proposed allowing trucks on public property, but the consensus of the Board had already decided against that in a previous meeting. Village President Wyke asked the Board if they were all in agreement with the final draft so they can vote on its next Board meeting, and Mr. Stiff was directed to make the final revisions.

Next on the agenda was a discussion about potentially closing Meadow Avenue access to/from I-80. Chief Dykstra provided information which he obtained through conversations with the IDOT engineers about the ramp leading to Meadow Avenue. At a recent meeting attended by Deputy Chief Baikie and Chief Dykstra, they learned some new information regarding the current plan for the design of the exit ramps. IDOT provided access to drawings which show a phase one design for the two ramps of traffic leading into Rockdale. In his opinion, this concept changes the traffic patterns significantly by adding more vehicle traffic feeding Brandon Road. Chief Dykstra informed Mayor Wyke about this significant change, which was why he asked to bring this to the Board for discussion.

IDOT wants two ramps to add traffic to an underutilized Brandon Road Bridge. Part of the reason for this discussion was Chief Dykstra wanted to inform the Board there is still time should they decide to close the Meadow Avenue access. Mr. Stiff asked about the design schedule since at some point it will be too late to close the road. Mr. Stiff reminded the Board that this question was posed to the Village voters as a non-binding referendum item. There may also be concerns with Joliet, as they were against the closure before. Mr. Stiff also suggested some type of town hall or other meeting to which the residents would be invited to discuss the topic. Mr. Barnes explained in his conversation with residents about the heavy traffic on Meadow Avenue now. Chief Dykstra reminded those in attendance the Village receives no benefit from all the additional traffic planned. It will cost more to the Village for Police, repairing of roads, the problems of heavy traffic coming through the Village. Mr. Cooling would like to see the drawings from IDOT before he makes his decision. Village President Mr. Wyke asked the Board their opinions about the next steps. It will be added to the next agenda a discussion about this issue.

Mr. Wyke asked Mr. Stiff to speak about the next agenda item which is A Resolution Approving a Professional Services Agreement for OCCT Demonstrative Study between the Village of Rockdale and Cornwell Engineering Group, Inc. Mr. Stiff provided the background and the fact that this resolution merely memorializes and ratifies the Board's decision at the last meeting. The next resolution number was 834. Mr. Stiff asked for a motion approving Resolution Number 834 for the Professional Services Agreement for OCCT Demonstrative Study between the Village of Rockdale and Cornwell Engineering Group, Inc. The Motion was made by Mr. Lorenc, with a second by Mr. Cooling. Motion carried, 5 ayes, 0 nays, and 1 absent.

XIII. Department Business

Public Works Superintendent Mr. Proia addressed the Board about when the SCADA Equipment will be installed, which is about six weeks away. The construction of the new lift station is progressing nicely and should be wrapped up within the next month. Mound Road patching is in progress starting today. The lead pipe harvesting project for the IEPA has been completed ahead of schedule. Trustee Lorenc asked about the progress of the deep well number two. There have been daily conversations with the well company about the progress of getting the equipment in place to proceed. The company has been extremely busy, so the crane needed for the well installation has to come up from Florida. Both Mr. Wyke and Trustee Lorenc indicated that this delay due to the inability to have the necessary equipment is unacceptable and indicated that the Village should probably search for a new well servicing company.

Deputy Chief Mr. Baikie presented information on the Wheeler Bridge reconstruction project. The construction project will last until November of 2023. There will be a special event at Roc City in support of the Rockdale Schools PTO. It is open for all to attend on June 2, 2023. Laraway Communications will be raising user fees to accommodate payroll increases for staff. E-ticket software will be utilized by the Village in the very near future. Once that transition takes place, there will be no more handwritten citations.

Additionally, the PD has decided on a change in its uniforms. The existing uniforms are entirely made of polyester. The new trend in uniforms is a breathable polo shirt with cargo style pants. They last longer, are more comfortable, and are believed to be more welcoming to the public. Studies have indicated this type of uniform is a more effective means of communicating to the public a friendlier version of the police.

Deputy Chief Baikie was wearing the new uniform. Although the initial investment might be slightly higher, the switch in uniforms will ultimately be more cost effective as the uniforms will be replaced less frequently.

Village Engineer Mr. Malinowski was absent but provided a written report covering several projects.

Village Attorney Mr. Stiff advised the Board that due to an interest index change, Cornerstone Services will be asking for a third amendment to the Bond Issue from previous years. That will be on the next agenda. Mr. Wyke wanted to be clear that this will not affect the Village's ability to bond this year or in the future.

XIV. Public Comment

Mr. Califello asked if there would be a Memorial Day celebration for this year. Mr. Wyke indicated that there would be no formal celebration.

XV. Special Business

None.

XVI. Adjournment

Village President Mr. Wyke reminded the Board that the Rockdale clean-up days are scheduled for June 2 and 3, 2023, and wanted to confirm with the Clerk that the water bills issued for May had this information on them. Mr. Wyke also mentioned a meeting with D Construction about the areas of concern which need paving, which includes Mound Road.

Mr. Wyke asked for a motion to adjourn tonight's Board meeting. Motion by Mr. Barnes with a second by Mr. Stadler. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays, and 1 absent.

The next Village Board Meeting will be Tuesday, June 6, 2023