VILLAGE OF ROCKDALE

Board Meeting Minutes of

December 5, 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 December 5, 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. Scheidt, Mr. Lorenc, Mr. Stadler, Mr. Barnes, and Mr. Pirc. Mr. Cooling was absent. Also present in person were Police Chief Robert Dykstra, Village Engineer Dan Malinowski, Village Attorney Mike Stiff (and Mike Santschi) and Public Works Assistant Director Angelo Proia.

III. Approval of Previous Minutes

Village President Mr. Wyke asked for a Motion to approve the Village Board meeting minutes from November 21, 2023, as written. Mr. Lorenc made a motion to accept the minutes as written with a second by Mr. Scheidt. 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. The motion to approve was made by Mr. Pirc with a second by Mr. Stadler. 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. Scheidt made a Motion to accept with a second from Mr. Lorenc. 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. Lorenc made a Motion to accept with a second from Mr. Barnes. 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 was made by Mr. Scheidt with a second by Mr. Pirc. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays 1 absent.

IX. Building Permits

None.

X. Communications

The Village Clerk asked the Board for a final tally on who plans to attend the annual Christmas Party held by the Will County Governmental League scheduled for December 14th, 2023.

XI. Old Business

None

XII. New Business

Mr. Stiff asked the Board if they had an objection to taking items A and C together. There was no objection.

The first agenda item was a Follow-Up Presentation by Chris Ulm of Strand Associates, Inc. regarding future water supply options due to area municipalities moving to Lake Michigan Water and the formation of the Grand Prairie Water Commission. Chris Ulm provided larger copies of the previously presented materials to the Board. Chris went over in detail the three water alternative options for the Trustees who were absent from the prior meeting. The three alternatives investigated are as follows:

Becoming a non-resident wholesale customer of the City of Joliet as they transition to Lake Michigan water. The Village would purchase water from the City in two distinct locations and then distribute the water throughout the system to Village residents/customers.

Becoming a wholesale customer of the Grand Prairie Water Commission and purchasing Lake Michigan water from Commission.

Continuing to be autonomous by switching back to utilizing the deep wells and the deep sandstone aquifer as a source Village water, which would also require significant infrastructure improvement and a treatment process to remove naturally occurring radium from the deep well water. This alternative may also require an additional deep well and/or tower to be built in the future.

The costs associated with each option were included in the presentation. Option 1 was the costliest while Option 3 was the least expensive, although the least costly is not necessarily the best option.

With respect to the option of the Village becoming a customer of the Grand Prairie Water Commission, there are at this point many unknowns, as the formation of the Commission is not even completely formed, and therefore there is no ability to reliably estimate the cost of water as a Commission customer. Additionally, the decision to allow the Village to become a customer of the Commission (as opposed to Joliet) must be unanimous among all the Commission members, which means that any one of the Mayors (or their designees) could veto the request to become a customer of the GPWC.

With each option, the costs are also not set in stone, as they are based on present cash values.

Option 3 is not only the least expensive, but also has less unknowns, as the Village would remain entirely self-sufficient in providing water to its residents, being reliant on Joliet only in the case of temporary emergencies. One significant unknown with this option is the potential for Joliet to have an emergency situation in the future, as the deep sandstone aquifer will be Joliet's emergency supply. According to the modeling done at Strand's request for the Village, when Joliet and the other communities in the GPWC move off their deep wells, the aquifer will replenish enough to satisfy the Village's demands. However, if Joliet was to move back to the deep wells, then that could be problematic for the Village.

Mr. Stiff and Mr. Ulm reminded the Board that the Village should be in a particularly good position to receive low interest loans and/or loan forgiveness from the IEPA based on how the Village scores on the scales upon which the loans are given/based. Mr. Stiff also indicated that with Option 1, the Village would have to spend significant amounts to have its system inspected to avoid non-revenue water loss, as the IDNR requires that figure be below 10% to be allowed a Lake Michigan water allocation. In other words, with Lake Michigan water, the Village would be required to prove that 90% of the water pumped out of Lake Michigan is metered and thereby used (charged to) by a customer and not lost in leaking pipes.

Mr. Santschi presented information regarding his negotiation of the Interim (and Emergency) Water Supply Agreement with Joliet. Mr. Santschi provided the current working draft, which has been in process for more than a year. This draft requires the Village to pass the agreement by the end of the year and to decide on whether to become a customer of Joliet shortly thereafter.

The attorneys and Chris Ulm made it clear that no matter which of the three future options are chosen, the City of Joliet is the only reasonable source for interim or emergency water for the Village. Therefore, this Agreement will be necessary irrespective of which option is chosen.

The Board indicated that becoming Joliet's customer (Option 1) was the least favorable, and the presenters made it clear that a decision could be made to go with Option 3 but Option 2 (becoming a customer of GPWC) could remain open for a short time into the future.

Based on the discussion, a straw vote of the Board resulted in a decision not to go with the Joliet Option, but since this was not on the agenda for formal vote, the decision will be made at the next meeting.

Based on the decision not to become a Joliet customer will moot some of the language in the current draft of the Interim Agreement.

The next item was an Ordinance for the levying and collection of taxes for the Village of Rockdale, Will County, Illinois for the fiscal year commencing on May 1, 2023, and ending on April 20, 2024. Mr. Stiff provided an explanation of the Ordinance before the Board. The Ordinance simply levies the taxes appropriated in the Appropriations Ordinance passed at the beginning of the Fiscal Year. The next Ordinance number was 1144. A motion to approve Ordinance number 1144 was made by Mr. Lorenc with a second by Mr. Stadler. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays 1 absent.

Next on the agenda was An Ordinance Opting Out of the Illinois Paid Leave For All Workers Act for the Village of Rockdale, Will County, Illinois. Mr. Stiff provided a detailed explanation of the Ordinance at the last meeting, at which it was tabled until tonight. Mr. Stiff provided examples as it pertains to the Village. There were no questions. The next Ordinance number was 1145. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Lorenc with a second by Mr. Pirc. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays, and 1 absent.

A Resolution amending the Village of Rockdale Employee Handbook Regarding Paid Leave for Part-Time and Seasonal Employees was next on the agenda. This Resolution puts into effect the requirement in the previous Ordinance that the Village provide some form of paid leave to part-time and seasonal employees. Practically speaking, this should have no real effect on current Village operations. The next resolution number was 839. A motion to approve this Resolution was made by Mr. Stadler with a second by Mr. Barnes. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays 1 absent.

XIII. Department Business

Mr. Proia updated the Board on the leaf collection for the Village with plans to end it on 12.11.2023. The road striping on the recently paved streets is complete.

The lift station construction is complete, and it is running smoothly. Nicor still needs to add a gas line for the backup systems.

Police Chief Mr. Dykstra provided material to the Board which included calls for the last two weeks along with other information. Mr. Wyke asked about the Christmas light judging which should take place soon. Mr. Dykstra informed the Board this process is being handled by the Assistant Clerk.

Mr. Malinowski presented his written Engineering Report. One of the primary topics was the continuing issues with the Ramiro Guzman property on Moen Avenue. Communication is continuing with the owner and his engineer. Mr. Malinowski and Mike Stiff will continue to work with the owner now that they appear to want to cooperate to get the landfill capped and the erosion control issues addressed.

Mr. Stiff had nothing to add to what was covered in detail throughout the meeting.

XIV. Public Comment

Mr. Wyke asked those in attendance if they wished to make a public comment. Diane Weber thanked the Board for working diligently facing the tough decisions head on about the future water requirements.

XV. Special Business

None

XVI. Adjournment

Mr. Wyke mentioned that Village Yard Waste pick-up will end next Monday on December 11, 2023, with instructions to Village staff to post the information on the electronic sign in the park and on the Village website.

Finally, Mr. Wyke wanted to provide information to the Board about the appraisal done recently for the 1407 Kinsey property which came in at $84,000.00. Mr. Stiff has specific instructions which will be discussed in an executive session to be held on December 19th, 2023.

A Motion to adjourn was made 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 December 19, 2023