

VILLAGE OF ROCKDALE
Board Meeting Minutes of
May 20, 2025

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 20, 2025, 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. Barnes was present along with Mr. Stadler, Mr. Cooling, Mr. Scheidt, Mr. Pirc and Mr. Lorenc. Also present in person were Police Chief Mr. Robert Dykstra, Village Attorney Mr. Michael Stiff, Public Works Superintendent Mr. Angelo Proia and Village Engineer Mr. Dan Malinowski.

III. Approval of Previous Minutes

Village President Mr. Wyke asked for a Motion to approve the Village Board meeting minutes from May 3, 2025, as written. Mr. Stadler made the motion to approve with a second by Mr. Scheidt. Motion carried 6 ayes, 0 nays and 0 absent.

IV. Visitors

None

V. Bills and Claims.

Village President Mr. Wyke asked for a Motion to approve the Bills & Claims. Mr. Lorenc made a motion to approve with a second by Mr. Barnes. Motion carried 6 ayes, 0 nays and 0 absent.

VI. Clerk's Receipts

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

VII. Treasurer's Receipts

Village President Mr. Wyke asked for a Motion to approve the Treasurer's Receipts. Mr. Cooling made a Motion to accept with a second from Mr. Lorenc. Motion carried 6 ayes, 0 nays 0 absent.

VIII. Treasurer's Report

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

IX. Building Permits

KWM Gutterman is adding a new office structure. 1007 Otis is seeking a fence permit. The application was denied by B & F.

X. Communications

There were no communications.

XI. Old Business

Village President Mr. Wyke asked for any old business. Mr. Scheidt asked about the on-going construction close-out for the Moen Avenue Phase III project. Mr. Malinowski indicated that he would address that in his department report.

XII. New Business

Mr. Wyke asked the Trustees for any new business. There was none.

The first item on the agenda was a Business License Application Review for Global Plastics Recycling at 936 Moen Ave, with the owner Ignacio Herrera. Mr. Wyke asked for a brief description of what takes place at his business. What they do is purchase plastic waste in its various manufactured forms which is then ground up into smaller pieces and re-sold. Mr. Wyke asked about safety issues regarding the recycling process and whether or not there are combustibles or odors from the process. He also asked the owner to contact the District Fire District for an inspection and approval before the permit can be issued. The owner agreed to do so and will contact the Village tomorrow for the Fire District contact information. There were additional questions about parking and security. There are security cameras and ample parking. Mr. Lorenc asked about how long they have been in business at the location which apparently was since October of 2024.

The next agenda item was a Business License Application Review for MMJ Transportation Inc., located at 1032 Moen Ave in Rockdale. Owner Nikola Shterjov was in attendance. Mr. Wyke asked about the number of tractors and trailers along with the storage of trucks and vehicles in the parking lot area. Mr. Malinowski asked about the parking area for employees and asked about handicapped parking in the area. The owner will provide photographs to the Village depicting the parking areas including the handicapped spaces.

Nest on the agenda was An Ordinance Authorizing the Village to Issue Waterworks and Sewerage Revenue Bonds in an Aggregate Principal Amount Not To Exceed \$6,100,000 For Water And Sewer System Improvements. Mr. Stiff gave a background narrative regarding the upcoming infrastructure projects planned for the Village, specifically the Meadow Avenue Water Main Replacement Project and the Village-Wide Lead Line Replacement Project. Both projects are awaiting loan approval from the IEPA and the awarding of the bids, unless the IEPA funding cycle for next year provides a better financial solution for the Village. These projects are being engineered and overseen by Strand Associates, Inc.

The Village received principal forgiveness for Meadow Avenue in last year's funding cycle, and a low interest loan for the Lead Line Project. Strand is waiting on next year's funding approvals from the IEPA to see if the Village can qualify for increased principal forgiveness or better loan terms. Meadow Ave. was bid but the low bidder was determined by IEPA to be non-compliant and therefore to be rejected. Only two bids were received for the Lead Line Replacement. The lowest bidder was Stip Brothers, with the second bid from Airy's being almost double. If the Village moves forward under the prior funding terms, the Meadow Avenue Project will be awarded to Austin Tyler and the Lead Line Project awarded to Stip Brothers.

Before the Board tonight is an Ordinance authorizing the Village to issue water and sewerage bonds in a higher amount than what was approved earlier for the two 2025 projects (Meadow Ave. and the Lead Line Replacement). The Meadow Project came in much higher than expected, so the current Ordinance up for consideration is to cover the remaining capital water and sewer projects, specifically a new deep well, an above ground storage tank, the HMO treatment facility. The Ordinance was prepared by Chapman & Cutler, and reviewed by Mr. Stiff. The next ordinance number is 1158. A motion to approve Ordinance 1158 was made by Mr. Cooling with a second made by Mr. Lorenc. Motion carried 6 ayes, 0 nays and 0 absent.

The last agenda item was the swearing in of the recently elected Rockdale Officials, Trustees Eugene Lorenc, Mark Pirc, and Gary Califello and Village President Sam Wyke. The Village Clerk administered the Oath of Office to the group.

Before moving on to department reports, Village President Mr. Wyke presented Trustee Barnes with a plaque commemorating his twenty years of service to the Village.

Newly elected Trustee Mr. Califello was then seated on the dais.

XIII. Department Business

Public Works Superintendent Mr. Proia reported to the Board on the concrete work on Otis, which is almost completed. Two Public Works employees passed the written testing for their CDL license.

Summer is being requested again. There are three applicants. Although the Board could not vote on the hires, there was a concurrence that Mr. Proia could go ahead with the processing of applications and the hires could be ratified at the next meeting.

Police Chief Dykstra handed out the PD call sheet and had nothing else to add.

Mr. Malinowski was up next to provide an update of the on-going Moen Avenue Phase III project. In essence, they have prepared a rebuttal to the PT Ferro claim for additional money on the soil transport and are still waiting on IDOT's consideration of the time extension motion.

Mr. Pirc brought up the issue of what appears to be substandard work with the storm sewers. The concrete covers affixed with mortar are crumbling and are in disrepair. Mr. Malinowski will bring it up with the contractor.

The I-80 on-going construction project focuses on the Larkin Avenue Northbound and Southbound traffic. This has caused much of the traffic to U-Turn at both Rockdale Larkin Avenue intersections. Although the Rockdale Police have ticketed drivers, the problem remains. Mr. Lorenc and others have witnessed several moving violations with traffic control.

Finally, Mr. Stiff updated the Board on a recent meeting with Mr. Nunez and his daughter regarding the request for a liquor license for his restaurant, El Comal. From past conversations and meetings, the original plans were to open a separate bar and not have it connected to the restaurant. There was a ZBA Petition for Variance and Village Board approval of the variance last year. However, after the variance was approved, there was no follow-up, and the conditions were not met. Last meeting, the Board voted to repeal the Variance Ordinance. Now that Mr. Nunez is looking to do something different, Mr. Stiff made it clear that he would need to apply to have the number of restaurant liquor licenses increased by one and then apply to have that new license issued to El Comal. Additionally, he will need to provide an updated drawing as to the amount of additional seating he plans to put in the restaurant so the parking can again be calculated. Ultimately, he will also need to go through the ZBA approval process for the parking variance since the other Ordinance was repealed. Mr. Lorenc agreed saying the Village "bent over backwards" last year to try and accommodate the requests from Mr. Nunez.

Public Comment

Mr. Wyke asked for a Public Comment. Ms. Weber observations were about the U-turns on Larkin Avenue trying to access Eastbound I-80. Her second question was about the start of the Meadow Avenue pipe replacement project. Finally, she again asked about the costs of the water and sewer for the end user asking the Board for their predictions of water supply in the future.

XIV. Special Business

None

XV. Adjournment

Prior to adjournment, Mr. Wyke reminded the Board about the employee annual raises due soon. Also, about the Memorial Day celebration taking place at 10 am at the Fire Department location. Children from the Rockdale Schools will perform a five song setlist for the festivities. Trustee Lorenc will provide the sound system. A Motion was made by Mr. Califello with a second by Mr. Scheidt. Motion carried 6 ayes, 0 nays, 0 absent.

The next Village Board Meeting will be on Tuesday June 3, 2025.