

VILLAGE OF ROCKDALE
Board Meeting Minutes of
January 6, 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 January 6, 2026, 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. Cooling, Mr. Lorenc and Mr. Stadler. Mr. Pirc was absent. Also present in person were Deputy Police Chief Mr. Robert Baikie, Village Treasurer Steve Lucas, Public Works Director Sean Smego, Public Works Team Lead Matt Lucas, Village Attorney Mr. Michael Stiff and Village Engineer Mr. Dan Malinowski. Police Chief Dykstra was absent.

III. Approval of Previous Minutes

Mr. Wyke asked for a motion to approve the Village Board meeting minutes from December 16, 2025, as written. A motion was made by Mr. Scheidt to approve with a second by Mr. Cooling. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays and 1 absent.

IV. Visitors

None

V. Bills and Claims.

Mr. Wyke asked for a Motion to approve the Bills & Claims. Mr. Lorenc made a motion to approve with a second by Mr. Stadler. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays and 1 absent.

VI. Clerk's Receipts

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

IX. Building Permits

The owner of 636 Howard applied for a deck remodel.

Communications

Mr. Wyke asked about communications. Deputy Police Chief Baikie advised that the Police Department received a Christmas card from Litmax Lines, a Village business, along with a \$1,000.00 donation to the police department.

X. Old Business

Mr. Wyke asked for any old business. There was none.

XI. New Business

Mr. Wyke asked for new business. Mr. Scheidt asked about the property on the corner of Morris Ave and Otis Ave. The owner has a permit to install a new fence. Mr. Scheidt also reported that there is a vehicle engine that has been removed and suspended from a basketball hoop on that same property. The Clerk's Office will coordinate an investigation with Code Enforcement.

The first item on the agenda was the swearing in of new Village Peace Officer, Bredan Gusich. Deputy Police Chief Baikie introduced Officer Gusich and gave an overview of his background and police career. The Village Clerk proceeded with the administration of the oath of office, after which Officer Gusich was welcomed by the Village Board and staff.

Next up on the agenda was the Business License Application Review for Mobile Repair Logistics-Michael LoPresti. Mr. LoPresti presented to the Board the history of his business and what brought him to decide to open his business in the Graham Business Park. He operates a truck repair business that does roadside assistance. Therefore, he and his crews are doing work outside of the Village. The primary repair on-site will be on Mr. LoPresti's own equipment and vehicles and only rarely will they bring a vehicle back to the location. Mr. Wyke asked about overnight parking or whether there will be vehicles parked outside. Mr. LoPresti assured the Board that this would not be a problem and that he planned to have outdoor cameras on the property.

The final agenda item is the approval of the purchase of a new police vehicle from Gillespie Ford in the amount of \$43,000.00. Deputy Chief Baikie presented this item to the Board. The proposed vehicle will be a replacement for Deputy Chief Baikie's vehicle that was totaled recently following a collision. The insurance company valued the vehicle at \$10,000.00. The proposed replacement is a basic 2024 Ford F-150. The cost is \$43,000. Deputy Chief Baikie reported that there is still money to cover the purchase in the PD Vehicle Budget. Any salvageable equipment from the totaled vehicle will be transferred to the new vehicle and it will not need a full complement of upfitting. Following the discussion, Mr. Cooling made a motion to approve the purchase of the 2024 Truck in the amount of \$43,000.00 with a second by Mr. Stadler. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays and 1 absent.

XII. Department Business

Public Works Director Mr. Smego reported on a water line leak that was located on the property of Apollo Colors. This line was one that Apollo thought was disabled and out of service. This breach was discovered after Apollo personnel saw what turned out to be a sink hole in their remote parking lot. This line will be repaired soon according to Apollo Colors personnel and at Apollo's cost.

The new lift station had pumping problems from the recent heavy rains. The vendor called to do the investigation and repair pulled a large amount of debris from the pump. The pumps are being worked on,

but Mr. Smego will be recommending a maintenance program whereby the pumps and holding pits will be inspected and cleaned of debris every six months.

Deputy Chief Baikie provided the PD handout and highlighted several items. There was an individual at 849 Rock Island who on December 26th was called by a distant relative with whom there was a family dispute. The individual demanded that the resident come outside and threatened to shoot him. The resident did go outside where the suspect attempted to run him over with a vehicle in addition to pointing a firearm at him. The U.S. Marshals office Fugitive Warrant Division was asked for assistance and Deputy Chief Baikie indicated that he thought the individual would be in custody soon. The Herald News was inquiring as to the status because the Village received the warrant with the 3 felonies listed. Mr. Lorenc asked about staffing. DC Baikie advised that the PD is still short one officer.

There was a discussion about the decrease in Village traffic now that Meadow Ave. is closed to I-80 due to the construction. The idea of closing Meadow entirely was raised again. Mr. Stiff reminded the Board that this idea did not receive a favorable vote when it was on the ballot for a non-binding referendum several years ago. Besides, now that IDOT has engineered the new interchange at Meadow and Raynor, it is probably way too late to reverse course.

Mr. Malinowski updated the Board on the Moen Ave project close-out and indicated that the process is ongoing and that Willett Hoffman has provided IDOT with all the necessary information on the unit price discussion for the non-special waste and the compensable delay claim.

Mr. Stiff had no report other than wishing everyone a Happy New Year.

XIII. Public Comment

Mr. Wyke opened public comments at which time Ms. Webber asked about how the Village informs residents on emergency issues such as low water pressure. Mr. Wyke and several trustees informed her that there is a notification service called Everbridge, which the Village uses, but a resident needs to sign up for it. Several trustees verified that the system was in fact working recently. The Village Clerk advised that this service has been in place since 2023.

XIV. Special Business

None

XV. Adjournment

Before closing, Mr. Wyke wished everyone a Happy New Year and asked for a motion to adjourn, which was made by Mr. Lorenc with a second by Mr. Cooling. Motion carried 5 ayes, 0 nays, 1 absent.

The next Village Board Meeting will be on Tuesday January 20, 2026.