VILLAGE OF ROCKDALE

Board Meeting Minutes of

April 21, 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 April 21, 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. Stadler, Mr. Lorenc, Mr. Cooling and Mr. Pirc. Also present in person were Police Chief Mr. Robert Dykstra, Public Works Director Sean Smego, Public Works Team Lead Matt Lucas, Village Attorney Mr. Michael Stiff, and Village Treasurer Steve Lucas. Also, in attendance were two of the Village Engineers from Strand Services, Miranda Gollwitzer and Chris Ulm.

III. Approval of Previous Minutes

Mr. Wyke asked for a motion to approve the Village Board meeting minutes from April 7, 2026, as written. Mr. Stadler made a 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.

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

VIII. Treasurer's Report

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

IX. Building Permits

Submitted for review are number 06 2026 located at 1220 Belleview, for a Deck, and number 07 2026 located at 111 Connell, for a fence.

Communications

Mr. Wyke read a thank you card received from Joe and Amanda Beemsterboer thanking them for the Easter Baskets for their children during the annual Easter Egg Hunt which took place on the Saturday before Easter. Although it rained, the Village was able to pivot with the passing out of Easter Baskets.

The Village Clerk read a thank you note from Mike Leterski thanking the Public Works Department for assistance in mowing a lot near his home and fixing a pothole in the alley which he uses daily. He was extremely grateful for the effort.

X. Old Business

Mr. Wyke asked for old business. Mr. Scheidt raised concern again about a tree located at the corner of Morris and Lakeview which overhangs the street. Mr. Smego reported that after the last meeting, he investigated and found that the tree appeared to be in good health and not dead or dying. He also thought the tree was privately owned property. Because the tree was not dead and rotted, Mr. Smego did not think it was of great concern. Mr. Wyke suggested that Public Works revisit the property and perhaps the next time we have a tree service in the area it might be prudent to trim it up if necessary.

XI. New Business

Mr. Wyke asked for new business. There was none. Mr. Wyke asked Mr. Stiff to present the first item on the agenda which was a Resolution Awarding The Contract For Construction Of A 250,000 Gallon Ground Level Water Storage Tank To Fisher Tank Company, Inc. In The Amount Of $1,225.000.00. Mr. Stiff provided an overview of the bid process and Strand's oversight of that process. Chris Ulm was asked to provide further information. The low bidder was Fisher Tank Company. Although Strand does not have any direct experience with Fisher in this area, the company is reputable and well known in the tank construction business. If the Village is ready to award the contract to Fisher contingent on IEPA loan approval, Strand will be able to get the information to the IEPA.

Mr. Ulm explained that because the bids came in slightly higher than the loan amounts, Strand needs direction from the Village as to how it wants to finance the difference between the grant amount and the cost of the tank. Since time is of the essence to try to get this down to the IEPA with the notice of intent to award the bid contingent on IEPA loan approval. The Resolution before the Board has the language drafted including the amount which is a difference of a little more than $300,000.00 that would not be covered by the loan forgiveness. There are two options before the Board tonight. The Village can take out a no interest or low interest IEPA loan for that difference. The interest rate would be anywhere between 0 and 2.6%. Fortunately, the Village has had zero interest and extended term loans offered by IEPA in the past. Depending on what the Village decides, based on assumptions of a 2.6% loan, it is likely that it would be offered 20- or 40-year terms. However, the Village may not have bonded enough to cover this project and the new deep well in a single bond, so going the loan route may require the Village to engage Chapman and Cutler for additional bond work and having to go through the bond process again. The other option, which would avoid any further bond issuance, would mean the Village would pay the difference directly from the general fund reserves.

Mr. Wyke suggested that the Village start the loan process. The application and the process itself will at least be started preventing a delay. If the Village is successful obtaining the low interest loan, the Village will have enough financially from the reserve accounts. Mr. Ulm concurred. By voice vote, the rest of the Village Board were each in favor of moving forward with the low or no interest loan process.

The direction was to have Mr. Ulm and Ms. Gollwitzer submit the loan application. All were in favor with no nays. Mr. Stiff asked for the next Resolution number, which was 873, and a motion to approve Resolution 873 awarding the contract for construction of a 250,000-gallon ground level water storage tank to Fisher Tank Company, Inc. in the amount of $1,225,000. dollars contingent upon IEPA state revolving fund loan approval was made by Mr. Stadler with a second by Mr. Scheidt. Motion carried 6 ayes, 0 nays and 0 absent.

After the vote, Mr. Lorenc asked about the probability of adding a second water storage tank. Mr. Ulm indicated that the current plan was to construct only one tank but that if needed in the future, another tank could be constructed on the current proposed site.

The next agenda item was the approval of Pay Request #2 in the amount of $1,362,238.21 from Austin Tyler Construction, Inc. for work performed on the Meadow Avenue Water Main Replacement Project. Mr. Stiff directed the Board to their packet and the April 13th, 2026 letter from Strand which recommends approval of the pay request. Strand has vetted the payroll documents from the packet and has recommended approval. A motion to approve pay request #2 in the amount of $1,362,238.21 was made by Mr. Cooling with a second by Mr. Lorenc. Motion carried, 6 ayes, 0 nays and 0 absent.

The last item was approval of the Dale AC sidewalk replacement using the Village 50/50 Program. The total amount of the work is $7,828.00 with the Village paying one-half of that total pursuant to the 50-50 program. Mr. Stiff confirmed with Mr. Wyke that the work would be done to Village specifications and Code and that the contractor understands that prevailing wage is to be paid. A motion to approve was made by Mr. Stadler, with a second by Mr. Scheidt. Motion carried, 6 ayes, 0 nays and 0 absent.

XII. Department Business

Public Works Director, Mr. Smego, reported the Meadow Ave project is moving along very quickly. The Village still has not received a date for completion yet but expects completion by the end of May. Mr. Wyke suggested that at the conclusion of the project the Village consider having Meadow Avenue resurfaced completely rather than just having the areas disturbed by the water main project merely patched. That would be brought to the Board after the project is complete and all utility work is done.

Additionally, Mr. Smego reported a small water main break last Thursday and Friday. This one was apparently a slow leak but a significant leak, nonetheless.

Next, Chief Dykstra provided the Rockdale Police handout with the call list and reported assisting the State Police with a major accident on Route Six near Brandon Road. Officers arrived on the scene which unfortunately ended up with one fatality.

Mr. Wyke announced to the members of the Board that our Village engineer, Dan Malinowski, has retired from Willett Hofmann. This was a surprise since there was no notification from Willett Hoffman of his departure and no notification of their plans with Rockdale. Right now, Mr. Wyke has asked Strand Engineering Services to assist with engineering projects.

Mr. Stiff reported on the ongoing compliance issues. The board up and water bills were paid out of the closing on the 617 Howard Property.

There will be a meeting with Mr. Malinowski to close out his projects with the Village. Many issues remain unresolved with his projects which will hopefully be resolved with this meeting.

The Joe Eaves property issues remain in a state of flux with inspections of property and buildings forthcoming.

XIII. Public Comment

Mr. Wyke opened public comment. Mr. Amed Aich of 626 Warren Ave addressed the Board regarding water rates. Mr. Aich suggested that the water rate increases were done without any input from the residents. He also suggested that these raises have been made every six months. Mr. Aich also asked whether the Village was a dictatorship, claiming that his water rates were at one time $20.00 per month and that his bills are now more than $200.00. Specifically, Mr. Aich asked why the residents not being consulted or informed. Mr. Wyke introduced Chris Ulm, who addressed the residents in the gallery.

Mr. Ulm explained the history behind the Village rate increases going back to the original decision not to proceed as a Joliet water customer when it and the Grand Prairie Water Commission get Lake Michigan water. He outlined the capital projects and the exorbitant amounts that Rockdale must pay to Joliet while the capital projects are being done. These upcoming construction projects, specifically the new deep well, the HMO Treatment Plant, and the above ground storage tank approved tonight, all must be paid for from the water system revenues. The rate increases are necessary to cover these costs. Because the Village did not know exactly how much it would receive in grants from the IEPA or the low interest loans also discussed today, the rate increases were calculated necessarily based on the Village having to pay 100% of the cost of these projects, which are about $19 million. The Village has already gotten several million dollars in IEPA grants and is expected to receive further grants in upcoming years. As a result, the “hope” is that the rates will be able to be reduced going forward rather than consistently being raised.

Mr. Aich asked about a “rebate.” Mr. Ulm said that while there may be a rate decrease in the future, there will not be a rebate to water customers. Mr. Ulm explained in general the financial implications of these large projects, which is the Village investing in the future.

Additional residents addressed the rising costs of water and usage issues. Mr. Stadler and Mr. Cooling said that they were sympathetic but offered examples of what they themselves pay.

With respect to the claims that the residents were not consulted, Village Staff and Mr. Wyke advised those in attendance that there was a Town Hall Style meeting last year before the latest Ordinance with water rate increases was approved. Notice of this meeting was on the Village’s website, on the water customers’ water bills and posted at Village Hall. The Village had engineers from Strand and others in attendance at that meeting to answer questions and concerns.

Mr. Stiff explained that the Village explored joining the Grand Prairie Water Commission and simply becoming a water customer of Joliet. He indicated that the water rates Joliet would have charged the Village were simply exorbitant. The costs associated with becoming a member of the Commission were also simply not sustainable for the Village. The Village leadership instead went with the current plan to remain self-sufficient with a new deep well. While the least expensive, it is still costing the Village significant amounts of money for the capital projects.

Josefina Garcia addressed the Board next. Her major concern was also getting a water rate reimbursement. She also inquired as to whether she could use her own well and indicated that there are others who do so. Ms. Garcia was told that private well usage was against the Village Code. She also claimed that her usage charges are inaccurate and that she does not know what she is paying for.

She asked about the new well location, which was answered by Mr. Lorenc. Ms. Garcia commented that she expects the water quality to get better when this is all done.

Ms. Joann Hernandez asked about how long the Village still has on the agreement with Environmental (now LRS) for free garbage pickup. Mr. Wyke explained that it was an additional 20 years.

Ms. Garcia suggested that future notices be disseminated in Spanish as well as English. The Village Board indicated that this could be explored.

XIV. Special Business

None

XV. Adjournment

Mr. Wyke asked for a motion to adjourn, which was made by Mr. Stadler with a second by Mr. Cooling. Motion carried 6 ayes, 0 nays, 0 absent.

The next Village Board Meeting will be on Tuesday May 5, 2026.