

**Village of Rockdale  
Board Meeting Minutes  
December 18, 2017**

**Public Hearing**

President Timp opened the public hearing for comment on Resolution 2017-02 to Vacate Benton Street and Alter Ownership at 6:00 p.m. With no residents wishing to speak, President Timp closed the public hearing at 6:01 p.m.

**Regular Village Board Meeting**

1. **Call Meeting to Order.** Village Board President Timp called the regular meeting of the Rockdale Village Board to order at 6:01 p.m. in the Robert M. Smithback Community Center.
2. **Attendance Roll Call.**  
Village Board Members Present: Benjamin Timp, Julie Nelles, Nancy Bishell, Carl Rucks and Nicholas Castle.  
Village Board Members Absent: None  
Others Present: Bob Salov, Gloria Salov, David Okada, Tina Okada, Eric Okada, Terri Van Den Einde and Linda Dieckhoff
3. **Announce Meeting/Reminder for Attendees to Sign In.** President Timp announced the meeting.
4. **Acknowledgement of Meeting Notice/Posting.** Clerk-Treasurer Dieckhoff confirmed the meeting had been properly posted.
5. **President's Welcome/Announcements.**  
President Timp welcomed all visitors.
  - a. Property Tax Bills – First Installment due by January 31, 2018.
  - b. December 31, 2017 – Expiration of 2017 Dog Licenses.
6. **Preview of Agenda.** No changes.
7. **Public Comment – Two Minute Limit Per Person.**

Bob Salov said the broadband presentation was excellent. Town of Vermont sent a survey out to all residents, took results to carrier and all Vermont residents got broadband. Salov would like to replicate the same procedure in Rockdale, then the carrier can apply for federal aid. The Village should do a resolution and send out a survey. Salov will be going to other area municipalities with the same proposal.

The County Board budget passed. A wheel tax will be effective in July and money will be used for roads. The jail will be remodeled and there will be a reduction in the bed count by 91. The current jail is unsafe.

EMS is doing great and has rented an apartment for staff that comes from out of town. Ambulances are in good shape. Also discussing the possibility of a new facility in three to five years.

8. **Discussion and possible approval of Village Board draft minutes of November 20, 2017.**

**Motion** by Bishell, second by Rucks, to approve the draft minutes of the November 20, 2017 meeting. Motion carried 5-0.

9. **Old Business.**

a. **Discussion and possible approval of Resolution 2017-02 to Vacate Benton Street and Alter Ownership contingent upon final survey reflecting proposed division of land.**

**Motion** by Nelles, second by Bishell, to approve Resolution 2017-02 to Vacate Benton Street and Alter Ownership contingent upon final survey reflecting proposed division of land. Motion carried 5-0.

b. **Discussion and possible action on fiber optic cable expansion by Frontier to Rockdale in Spring of 2018.**

Timp went to meeting and has talked with Frontier. Frontier cannot give us any info at this time. He asked if Rockdale can hook up and will not have an answer until after first of year due to funding and estimates Frontier receives. Frontier has received federal funding. We are too densely populated and not considered rural. We could apply for state funding on behalf of Frontier. We should consider doing a survey and take action on becoming a Broadband Forward Community. By applying it doesn't hold us liable. It would be in the interest of Rockdale to allow Frontier to expand fiber optic cable in our right-of-way.

Salov recommended that the Village get together with Maureen Lien of the Town of Christiana and do this together as a united effort.

c. **Discussion and possible action on becoming a Broadband Forward Community.**

Board should look over sample ordinance and bring back next month for consideration.

d. **Discussion and possible action regarding a Broadband Expansion Grant Program.**

The Village does not benefit from this program, it is for the carrier. The Village will not proceed at the board level.

10. **New Business.**

a. **Discussion and possible action on setting date and time for January 2018 Caucus.**

**Motion** by Rucks, second by Castle, to set the date of January 15, 2018 at 6:00 p.m., prior to Village Board Meeting, for the 2018 Caucus. Motion carried 5-0.

b. **Discussion and possible action on appointment of election officials for 2018-2019 Elections.**

**Motion** by Bishell, second by Nelles, to approve election officials as listed for 2018-2019 elections. Motion carried 5-0.

c. **Discussion and possible action regarding approval of audit engagement proposal for the year ending December 31, 2017 from Johnson Block and Company, Inc.**

**Motion** by Rucks, second by Nelles, to approve the audit engagement proposal for the year ending December 31, 2017 from Johnson Block and Company, Inc. in the amount of \$8,100. Motion carried 5-0.

Next year, in July, we should do a request for proposal for auditor services.

d. **Discussion and possible action regarding Fee Schedule.**

**Motion** by Bishell, second by Castle, to keep the fees the same for 2018 that was adopted in 2017. Motion carried 5-0.

e. **Discussion and possible action regarding creating a Rockdale information sheet for homeowners.**

We should add more info to the website regarding local businesses and make a reference of where to go on tax insert. Should also add info on website regarding brush drop-off site.

f. **Discussion and possible action regarding computer backups to protect from ransomware cyber security threats.**

Castle will help with software to update backups.

11. **Public Comment – Two Minute Limit Per Person.** None.

12. **Correspondence.**

a. **General Engineering – Building permit activity.** Report placed on file.

13. **Discussion and possible approval of Treasurer's Report/Approval of Bills.**

**Motion** by Castle, second by Nelles, to approve the Treasurer's Report and checks #6178 - #6191, EFT and ATM in the amount of \$12,814.71. Motion carried 5-0.

Rucks indicated that a check to General Engineering was for the LRIP project. This invoice will be applied toward the fee to General Engineering once the project is bid out and approved.

14. **Discussion and possible approval of Sewer Clerk Report/Approval of Bills.**

**Motion** by Nelles, second by Bishell, to approve checks #5795 - #5803 in the amount of \$7,182.02. Motion carried 5-0.

15. **Any Other Business.**

Place agenda item next month to update culvert ordinance.

Rucks indicated for information that Robby Stenjem could remove leaves in the street at a cost of \$800.

Nelles asked if anyone had inquired about the open village board seats up for election. A notice was put in with the tax bills of open seats. No one has come forward yet.

Bishell indicated that the Fire Commission is looking at a new fire truck with a cost of \$533,000.

16. **Adjournment. Motion** by Rucks, second by Bishell, to adjourn at 7:05 p.m.  
Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Linda L. Dieckhoff  
Clerk-Treasurer