

**ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF:**

Gina Shurtz  
VILLAGE CLERK

Chris Scroggins  
VILLAGE TREASURER

Rodney Potts, PSC Engineers  
VILLAGE ENGINEERS

Jonathan R. Cantrell  
VILLAGE ATTORNEY

# Village of Valier

400 East Main Street – PO Box C  
Valier, Illinois 62891

PHONE: 618-/724-9393 FAX: 618/724-7241  
cityofvalier@outlook.com

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES:**

George Dudzinski  
VILLAGE PRESIDENT

Kelly J. Bate  
Rob Blondi  
William Gale Burzynski  
Marshall Johnson  
Jeff Spiller  
William Dwayne Whittington

June 23, 2025

The regular monthly board meeting was held on Monday, June 23, 2025 at 6:30pm in the small meeting room at the village hall. Newly elected village president, George Dudzinski called the meeting to order at 6:33pm.

The village president asked trustee Gale Burzynski to give an invocation.

Roll Call was as follows: Kelly Bate, present; Rob Blondi, absent; Gale Burzynski, present; Marshall Johnson, present; Jeff Spiller, present and Dwayne Whittington, present. These other village employees were present: village treasurer, Chris Scroggins; Lisa Gulley, water clerk; Mike Gulley, village worker; and chief of police, Johnathan Ashlock.

The pledge of allegiance was recited by the public body.

Jeff Spiller made a motion to approve the May 27, 2025 regular board meeting minutes and the executive/closed session meeting minutes for June 25, 2024, December 2, 2024 and May 27, 2025. Second was given by Marshall Johnson. Motion carried. All yeas.

Chris Scroggins presented the claims report of bills from May 28 to June 23, 2025. A motion was made by Gale Burzynski to accept the report and pay the claims. Second was given by Kelly Bate. Motion carried. All yeas.

At this time, the meeting was opened up for public comment. Tim Reiman, a travel baseball coach spoke on behalf of a travel baseball league wanting to use the ball field #2 on the village property. He stated they would like to have 15-20 games this fall starting in September. He would like to see if the village would help purchase some equipment and/or maintenance materials for the field. Also, possibly use the concession stand to help with costs. He was asked to get a proposal together to be put on the agenda for next meeting.

A Valier resident asked if the village would consider allowing him to move a 2017 trailer into Valier on property he owns. The village ordinance states a trailer or mobile home can't be more than 2 years old. George stated he would review the ordinance and make sure he could not do this.

Another resident inquired about starting a neighborhood watch. George said he would contact Sheriff Kyle Bacon on information for a watch program.

Sue Vercellino, president of the Valier Women's Club had been asked to remove the decorated bicycles by a board member. She had a petition of residents who were mainly in favor of the bikes staying up and

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asked for the board to reconsider. It was decided to put it on the agenda for next month to take action on the bicycles staying up or coming down.

Village president, George Dudzinski presented a mayor's report. He had been in contact with the Benton mayor, about the village possibly taking sewer samples to them instead of Carbondale. He is waiting to hear back.

George stated the lockbox was delivered and installed at the village hall. Marshall will be organizing the keys to put in it.

George said that OSHA required training was completed on June 11<sup>th</sup> by Jay, Mike and himself.

George also stated that after reviewing the Open Meeting Act training, recording of meetings are required for closed session and there are only certain reasons listed that you can go into closed session. He also stated that anyone can record open meetings but to keep in mind that your personal device you use can be subpoenaed for public record.

Under correspondence, George stated the village had opted out of the contract with Homefield energy for the village Ameren electric bills. He stated we may not sign an aggregation contract next year with Homefield depending on rates.

Republic trash will be running service on Friday, July 4<sup>th</sup> in the village.

We had been looking into providing emailing of water bills, but the cost involves an annual fee of \$320.00 plus \$500 for the software. Chris Scroggins said he would look into this further and report back.

The village water department has passed the EPA inspection

Under committee reports, Jeff Spiller spoke on behalf of the fire department. They had 2 calls: 1 medical emergency – lift assist and 1 out of town.

Johnathan Ashlock presented the police report. He had 15 cases in April, 4 cases in May and total cases during January 2025 – June 23, 2025 is 52 cases. In 18 months, he has had over 68 arrests. Jonathan stated he had spent a great deal of time updating and creating policies for the police department. He presented a resignation letter for the patrolman, Andrew Cairel regarding conversations he had with George and Jeff Spiller asking for Andrew's resignation. He presented a statement with concerns regarding professional conduct and interference with departmental oversight from the "Police

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Commissioner". He went into great length to explain this. After much discussion with Jeff Spiller, he presented his resignation as police chief. Kelly Bate explained to him the village does not have a police commissioner but a police committee and Jeff Spiller is the chairperson of the committee. She is on this committee as well as Dwayne Whittington, and they were not made aware of meetings or conversations that had taken place or been advised of any resignations. She asked if he would reconsider his resignation and he said no.

George reported for water/sewer that we had a major break on 300 W. Patton St. that cost \$1000.00 to fix. There was also a small leak reported in the Valier patch. Jeff Spiller brought up that a different trailer was needed to haul the trench box. This was tabled to see what was available and the cost.

There were no other committee reports presented. Gale Burzynski made a motion to accept the committee reports. Jeff Spiller seconded the motion. The motion carried. All yeas.

Under old business, the board had previously voted to have an IDOC work crew from the Murphysboro boot camp come into the village this summer to mow, weed -eat, paint and do other town clean up. He needed to know what the village wanted to focus on first and set a budget. It was mentioned that painting the painting and ditching were the main priorities. Jeff Spiller made a motion to set a budget of \$1,000 for paint supplies, misc. for these projects. Gale Burzynski seconded the motion. Motion carried. All yeas.

George stated he had contacted the company that we had the revised code of ordinance book with and would be setting up a meeting for the board to attend and the representative to go over it.

Under new business, it was presented that ditch work and putting new tiles on Lincoln St. North of the Methodist Church was needed. It was estimated the tiles would cost \$8,000.00. George is waiting on a proposal from Rodney Potts, the village engineer to move forward.

A proposal to have recycling bins was handed out to the board from Republic Services. They would provide a 20 yd. container at a cost of \$150 per haul plus \$50 per ton each time it is picked up. This could only include paper, plastic, aluminum and cardboard. It was noted if other trash was put in the container contaminating it, there would be additional fees to haul it to the landfill. Gale Burzynski made a motion to not move forward with this proposal. Dwayne Whittington seconded the motion. Motion carried. All yeas.

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Jeff Spiller presented a job quote of \$750.00 from Jolt LLC for material and installation to mount the hose reel for the fire department vehicle. Marshall Johnson made a motion to accept this bid and move forward. Gale Burzynski seconded the motion. Motion carried. All yeas.

A job proposal was presented to contract for a code administrator of \$300 per month and a \$50 technology stipend. It also included a 20 gallon fuel allowance. Chris Scroggins stated it would need to include the technology stipend in the monthly contract price as municipalities do not reimburse contractors for this and he would need to submit for reimbursement of mileage and not be given a fuel allowance. The proposal was tabled to the next meeting.

George stated the village did not have a bereavement policy for the village employees. He researched what the State of Illinois provides and it is up to 3 days for immediate family. This includes spouse, siblings, children, grandparents and grandchildren including relationships established by marriage. Jeff Spiller made a motion to accept this bereavement policy for the village. Kelly Bate seconded the motion. Motion carried. All yeas.

George introduced the idea of hiring a paid temporary/on-call applicant to fill in for the water clerk. After much discussion about this, Marshall Johnson voted not to hire any new help. Gale Burzynski seconded the motion. Motion carried. All yeas.

It was agreed to table solicitors/peddlers and revisit to the next meeting.

George presented an idea for the village to have movie nights at the American Legion Park this summer on one night a month on Friday evenings. He has a large screen projector that will project the movie. Jeff Spiller made a motion for the village to do this. Gale Burzynski seconded the motion. The motion carried. All yeas.

George also presented an idea to have a park usage form drafted for the use of the Village of Valier parks by individuals and groups. It would list rules regarding usage of electric, water and other items. It was proposed to charge a \$25.00 fee for the usage. The draft form will be presented at the next meeting to take action on.

George presented an idea to dissolve the wheel tax that the village charges for each vehicle owned by Village of Valier residents annually. It was discussed that it did not bring in that much money and the

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stickers cost approximately \$200 annually. After some discussion, Gale Burzynski made a motion to keep the wheel tax as it is. Marshall Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried. All yeas.

George also presented an idea to reduce the non-highway vehicle fee from \$50.00 annually to \$25.00. Sesser and Christopher charge \$25.00 annually. Gale Burzynski made a motion to reduce the annual fee from \$50.00 to \$25.00. Kelly Bate seconded the motion. Motion carried. All yeas.

The Benedict St. tile project was discussed. The price of the 36 inch steel is \$1,002.60 and \$746.40 for the PVC. Marshall made a motion to move forward on this project and purchase the material. Dwayne Whittington seconded the motion. Motion carried. All yeas.

A motion to adjourn was made by Gale Burzynski. Marshall Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 9:51pm.



Gina Shurtz, Village Clerk