

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF:

Gina Shurtz
VILLAGE CLERK

Chris Scroggins
VILLAGE TREASURER

Rodney Potts, PSC Engineers
VILLAGE ENGINEERS

Jonathan R. Cantrell
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Village of Valier

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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

April 27, 2026

The regular monthly board meeting was held on Monday, April 27, 2026 at 6:30pm in the ballroom at the village hall. Village president, George Dudzinski called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

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

The pledge of allegiance was recited by the public body.

Roll Call was as follows: Kelly Bate, absent; Rob Blondi, present; Gale Burzynski, present; Marshall Johnson, present; Jeff Spiller, present, Dwayne Whittington, present and George Dudzinski, Village President present. Other village employees present were village treasurer, Chris Scroggins.

George stated that the new name plates for the board members were donated from an anonymous resident, and he wished to thank them for their generosity.

Rob Blondi made a motion to approve the March 23, 2026 regular and executive board meeting minutes. Second was given by Gale Burzynski. Motion carried. All yeas.

Village president, George Dudzinski did not present a mayor's report.

Under correspondence, George stated that the police reports are not in compliance with the Way Forward Act and have not been filed. Since we have not had any police on staff since last June, he will be updating the police reports to get in compliance and maintain them as acting police chief until we hire someone.

Also under correspondence, George let the board know that the village has a lawsuit pending from a resident in Valier and under advisement of our village attorney; we are turning it over to our village insurance company.

Under committee reports, Jeff Spiller reported on behalf of the fire department. They had 8 calls: 1 in town structure fire, 5 in town field fires, 1 mutual aid, and 1 traffic accident out of town.

George reported on behalf of the police committee that the squad car battery was replaced by the village employees at a cost of \$176.99. He also said the car had some recalls on it, but the recall parts were not available until July. When the Ford dealership has the parts in, He will arrange to get the recalls taken care of on the car. George also made some changes to our village insurance plan through

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RMA to drop the insurance on the payroll for the 2 officers we had employed. We will reinstate it when we hire new officers.

Under public health, George reported that he had been in contact with the EPA office out of Marion, IL regarding the sawmill property that had illegal burning, tires and dumping on it. Derek has been issuing tickets as well. He is waiting for a call back from the EPA but there are only 2 investigators assigned to the Southern Illinois area. He asked residents to voice their complaints to them. A resident provided a phone number and a contact at the EPA Marion office. The more inundated they are with complaint calls, the more likely they will act on the issues.

George reported for water/sewer that the summer help resigned, and we are looking for someone else. We had some minor issues with the lagoon but were able to get it fixed. Southeastern Illinois Electric cracked a water meter on Lincoln Road, and he was pursuing that to be fixed and paid by them.

Under street/alleys we had some lines down from trees but were able to get this cleaned up and taken care of.

George presented the code enforcement report to the board members for the month of April 2026. There were 15 issues involving conversations and notices. There are 9 vehicles towable.

No other committee reports were presented. Rob Blondi made a motion to accept the committee reports. Dwayne Whittington seconded the motion. Motion carried. All yeas.

Chris Scroggins presented the financial reports through March 31, 2026. He presented the claims report of bills from March 23 to April 27, 2026. A motion was made by Gale Burzynski to accept the reports and pay the claims. Second was given by Marshall Johnson. Motion carried. All yeas.

Chris also stated that he is working on getting a letter from the USDA on the fire truck loan to relieve the village of the original amount we were paying on with FREDCO before it was transferred to State Bank of Whittington. He is hoping to get that taken care of soon.

Under old business, George reported that he was still waiting to hear back from ILETSB on what training would be required for a potential police candidate to get him to active status. This was tabled to next month with hopes of more information.

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Next on the agenda was revisiting Ordinance 90.01: Abandonment of vehicles. Marshall Johnson stated that he had spoken to 2 police chiefs from other towns and they give residents 7 days to fix the vehicles or arrange to have them removed. No other information was provided at this time, so no action was taken.

An amendment to the original ordinance on the traffic control signs was made with Ordinance 26-470. 2 of the stop signs to add were listed incorrectly on the wrong street. The signs are listed on East Main and W. Rea, but it should be N. Garfield and E. Rea. Rob Blondi made a motion to accept the amended ordinance. Jeff Spiller seconded the motion. Motion carried. All yeas.

George wanted to discuss putting a limit on amounts owed on past due water bills. After much discussion, it was decided to table this and do some more research on what other municipalities do and possibly amend our ordinances.

George stated that a resident had fixed the fascia soffit on the maintenance building. No quote was presented to replace it at this time. This was tabled in case it was decided it needed replaced.

Under new business, George stated that Derek Parvin had been working contractually for the village as the code enforcement officer for well over the 90-day probationary period and the board needed to act on his continued employment. He felt like he had been doing a great job and was getting results. Jeff Spiller made a motion to continue his employment. Gale Burzynski seconded the motion. Motion carried. 4 yeas and 1 nay.

George stated a new room rental agreement was being drafted with new rates. He asked if the board wanted to revisit the use of the facility for community groups for free and the storage space being used by them at the community building. Recently, some frozen treats and drinks had been left in the refrigerator/freezer and other renters had taken them. The board decided to let them use the building for free and store their items, but the village would not be held responsible for anything left in the community building that comes up missing or damaged.

George presented a quote for \$1,000 allotment to buy some night safety equipment for the fire department. He was on a fire call with them at night and stated they did not have a good flashlight or lighted safety equipment that was needed. Gale Burzynski made a motion to approve the purchase of the equipment. Jeff Spiller seconded the motion. Motion carried, All yeas.

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Next on the agenda was a software update presented by LOCIS to help deal with rounding of utility bills due to the US Treasury officially ceasing penny production. The software update would handle the rounding of the utility bills generated for water/sewer and garbage. We will need to draft a new ordinance for this change. Dwayne Whittington made a motion for the village to pay for the software update. Rob Blondi seconded the motion. Motion carried. All yeas.

Derek Parvin had asked for a postal stipend to cover costs of postage mailings he does as the code enforcement officer. Chris discussed with George that he would need to submit expense reimbursements for certified mailings and the village could buy him a roll of stamps for other mailings. Stipends are not recommended.

An ordinance from Franklin County Animal Control amending any prior ordinances was presented. Rob Blondi made a motion to adopt the new ordinance. Gale Burzynski seconded the motion, Motion carried. All yeas.

George stated that Tammy Campbell had called him to see if the village wanted to contribute any matching funds for the 28 housing grant applications which could add up to 10 points to the application for the village. The village could contribute \$20,000 or less, but was not required, and would only be required if the village received the grant. Typically they only select 1 out of 3 applications. After much discussion, it was decided to table it and think about it for next month's meeting,

At this time the meeting was opened for public comment. The CAC presented an update from the Community Breakfast held on April 11, 2026. They served 83 people and they are trying to get at least 100 people each month to help qualify for grant funding for kitchen upgrades on the community building, community food gardens, food pantry and senior meals. They have other breakfast dates scheduled on Saturdays from 8:00am to 10:30am for 5/9, 6/13, 7/11, 8/15 and 9/12. The street cleanup was postponed to April 25, 2026 due to weather. They had 11 volunteers. Food Truck Friday's will start on May 8th at the American Legion park from 4:00 pm to 8:00 pm. They are also trying to start a farmers market in the month of June. A fall festival is also planned for 10/17/26 at the Totland Park with a makeup date of 10/24/26. The CAC asked for the use of 2 picnic tables to use on the food truck Friday events and the board agreed to let them use the tables.

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A motion to adjourn was made by Rob Blondi. Second was given by Dwayne Whittington. Motion carried. All yeas. Meeting was adjourned at 7:32pm.



Gina Shurtz, Village Clerk