

**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

March 23, 2026

The regular monthly board meeting was held on Monday, March 23, 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.

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.

The pledge of allegiance was recited by the public body.

Gale Burzynski made a motion to approve the February 23, 2026 regular board meeting minutes. Second was given by Dwayne Whittington. Motion carried. All yeas.

Chris Scroggins presented the financial reports through February 28, 2026. He presented the claims report of bills from February 24 to March 24, 2026. A motion was made by Rob Blondi to accept the reports and pay the claims. Second was given by Marshall Johnson. Motion carried. All yeas.

Village president, George Dudzinski presented a mayor's report. He wanted to let the body know that he would get back to you if he said he would, but he may have to do research and wait for others to get back to him for an answer.

George reported that board member packets are available to the board members by close of business on the Wednesday before Monday board meetings and he has keys available for the board members to access the building. Let him know if you need something else to help you prepare for the meetings.

Under correspondence, Ted Farmer's signature was obtained on the contract for the Valier Alumni monument.

The Casey's business card account still had Joe Burgess listed as the administrator and George had this replaced with his name.

Under committee reports, George asked the board members if they needed to know what committee's they were assigned to so they could ask questions before the agenda is set and bring the necessary cost analysis to the meetings.

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Jeff Spiller reported on behalf of the fire department. They had 5 calls: 1 auto aid to Sesser, 1 mutual aid, 1 fire out of town, 1 medical emergency, and 1 power pole/lines down.

George reported on behalf of the police committee that the squad car needs a new battery, and he will be reaching out for pricing. The body armor we have is expired and we will need to replace this if we hire a part-time officer.

George reported for water/sewer that some of the material for the (MFT) motor fuel tax tile project was not up to specs and he was working to resolve that through another vendor. He talked to the village engineer, Rodney Potts on the sewer line project and we are in the blueprint phase. The next step is to get the EPA permits hopefully by June and then Rodney's office can start applying for grants at the end of July.

George also reported that there had been an issue of a water meter within a fence. They cannot be within a fence as the village employees need to have access to read the water meters. There is an ordinance on compliance with this in the state of Illinois.

Under street/alley committee, George reported that he was hoping to have the new stop signs up by end of April. He stated we would need 4 more signs and was looking into the cost. He also stated that an amendment was going to be needed to correct the traffic control ordinance for 2 stop signs added, number 9 and 10 that were listed as being on East Main Street when they are on North Garfield Street.

Under parks/recreation. George stated that the Community Action Committee and the Valier Women's Club were looking into some grants.

Derek Parvin presented the code enforcement report to the board members for the month of March 2026. There were 11 issues involving conversations, notices and removal of abandoned property. George mentioned that Derek's 90-day probationary period was up and we needed to add to the April agenda to consider his continued employment. He feels he has done a great job, and we need to continue his employment on a permanent basis.

George reported that the Rend Lake Conservancy District would be increasing water rates effective May 1, 2026. He talked to Chris and felt that the village can absorb the increase for this next year.

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

Under old business, George reported that he was waiting to hear back from ILETSB on what training would be required for a potential police candidate to get him to active status. He also had spoken with the mayor of Sesser on possible local patrol by the Sesser police department. He stated that the village needs to look at the cost of what we have in the police department and assess how to proceed. This was tabled until he hears back from ILETSB.

Next on the agenda was revisiting Ordinance 90.01: Abandonment of vehicles. Marshall Johnson stated that the village needs to enforce the towing of abandoned vehicles as he feels they decrease property value with weeds and trash around them as well they detract from the cleanliness of the village. Derek has proposed a 14-day notice be sent to owners in these situations and is working to present an ordinance on this. George stated we need a standard to follow and treat all residents the same. After lengthy discussion among the board and the public, the matter was tabled until more information could be presented.

Next on the agenda under old business was the use of MFT tile project funds on private property. Gale Burzynski stated he did not think that the village could go on private property and replace the tiles. George stated this is like the tile work that was done by the Methodist church and can be done as a village project.

The new stop signs being put were addressed in the committee reports, previously.

Under new business, George would like to open an Amazon municipality account for the village. This would allow the village to save up to 40% on office supplies, equipment and other items. Chris mentioned that other towns have this setup and he recommended it. A limit may be institutes as well if available on the account. The users on the account would be the village president, the water clerk, the village clerk, the fire chief and police. Rob Blondi made a motion for Chris to open the account. Gale Burzynski seconded the motion. Motion carried. All yeas.

George presented the board with a new waste services agreement from Republic Services for 5 years that would start April 1,2026 through March 31, 2031. Costs will increase to the village after year 2

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starting April 1, 2028. He recommended that the board review the contract again in March of 2028 to look at what increase will be needed for resident's waste service. He did reach out to 2 other companies on rates and they can't compare. Gale Burzynski made a motion to approve the agreement and revisit it again in March 2028. Jeff Spiller seconded the motion. Motion carried. All yeas.

Next on the agenda was a calendar of events that the Community Action Committee (CAC) had presented from April 2026 to August 2026. There were several events planned that include a free breakfast each month on a Saturday from 8:00am to 10:30 am and a presentation by several community partners at the village hall. They also plan to have on Friday evenings in May from 4pm to 8pm at the American Legion Park different food trucks available to the community.

The CAC has also planned a village cleanup on Saturday, April 18 on 4 main roads into the village. They asked if the board would consider paying for lunch for the volunteers since this would benefit the village. This was presented with a cap of \$100.00. Rob Blondi made a motion for the board to do this. Gale Burzynski seconded the motion. Motion carried. 4 yeas, 1 no.

Next on the agenda were complaints on higher water bills. Marshall Johnson stated his bill in January was higher than any bill he had had and wanted to know how the amount was determined. George stated that the January bills were estimated on an average bill due to the snowstorm and meters being covered or frozen. This is the policy in these situations. The February bills were generated with a meter reading so if an adjustment was needed, it was on the February bill. He stated that any resident can ask the water department to re-read their meter if they think it was read wrong.

Marshall Johnson stated that the fascia soffit on the maintenance building needed to be replaced or repaired. He was asked if he had brought an estimate on the cost to share with the board, He did not but stated he would reach out to Jay or Mike about this and bring back an estimate at the next meeting.

At this time the meeting was opened for public comment. A resident mentioned an idea of the village moving abandoned vehicles to the end of Main Street in front of the Blue Bird Café down to the storage units by the railroad tracks so the owners could get people to help them work on them. Rob Blondi stated that the village should not get involved with doing this as this is the responsibility of the owner to get people to help him take care of their vehicle.

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A resident asked for a reminder of who was on the committees that the village has. Goerge read them off and she was also instructed that they are listed on the village website.

Another resident asked if the village had a record of the attempts made to contact owners about their violations of abandoned vehicles or property needing cleaned up. Derek Parvin stated that he visits the homeowner and tries to help them form a plan to take care of the violations. He works with them and has even helped them clean up their property.

A resident asked if we could have the house number put on our trash receptacles so they could be identified to the homeowner. Geroge stated they are owned by Republic Waste Service, so he was not sure but would check with them.

At 7:45 pm, a motion to go into executive session to talk about the village hall room rental agreement was made by Jeff Spiller. Rob Blondi seconded the motion.

A motion to return to regular session and adjourn was made by Marshall Johsnon. Rob Blondi seconded the motion. Motion carried. All yeas. Meeting was adjourned at 8:09pm.



Gina Shurtz, Village Clerk