

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

February 10, 2026

The regular monthly board meeting scheduled for Monday, January 26, 2026 was held on Tuesday, February 10, 6:30pm in the ballroom at the village hall due to inclement weather. Village president, George Dudzinski called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

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

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

George announced that the monthly meetings are posted on the villageofvalier.org website.

The pledge of allegiance was recited by the public body.

Jeff Spiller made a motion to approve the December 22, 2025 regular board meeting minutes and release to the public the executive session meeting minutes from September 22, 2025, October 27, 2025 and December 4, 2025. Second was given by Kelly Bate. Motion carried. All yeas.

Village president, George Dudzinski presented the mayor's report. He said he had been receiving a lot of phone calls, emails and social media inquires. He wants to do better for the village. He also feels that the meetings need to be conducted in the large room so seating is available for people to attend even though there are sound issues.

George also reported that he had a report from Franklin County Sheriff's office on the number of calls that were received in the past year. 87 calls were for Valier area and 17 of those were for the Valier Patch leaving 70 for Valier. That averages to 5.8 calls a month.

George stated we received a letter from an attorney regarding a legal matter with the village He shared this letter with the board members. He told Chris he needed a copy of the village's liability insurance policy.

Under committee reports, Jeff Spiller reported on behalf of the fire department. They had 4 calls from the period of 12/21/25 to 2/9/26. The calls were 1 out of town field fire, 1 in town traffic accident and 2 illegal burns.

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George reported on behalf of the street/alley department. With the snow storm in January, the village employees worked many hours to get the streets cleared.

Kelly Bate mentioned that she wanted the village to know that the City of Sesser had their workers come and salt our roads since our salt spreader was down. They stated they would only charge us for the cost of the salt and no labor costs. She reached out to the mayor of Sesser and the City of Sesser and expressed the village's sincere appreciation for doing this to help us out.

The code enforcement officer provided a report for the month of January. He had 7 issues involving notices and warnings.

No other committee reports were presented at this time. Jeff Spiller made a motion to accept the committee reports. Dwayne Whittington seconded the motion. Motion carried. All yeas.

Under old business, Ted Farmer revisited the proposal for a miner's/veteran's memorial. He asked for the village to consider paying \$2000 each for 1 line on each memorial. He was willing to give the village an annuity as collateral if the village needed the money for infrastructure costs. The mayor stated he had not heard back from the village attorney on the legality of doing this. Ted asked the board to vote on the contingency that the village attorney would advise the board that it was legal for the board to do this. Gale Burzynski made a motion for the village to spend the \$4,000.00 for the memorials. Dwayne Whittington stated he felt the board needed to focus our money on infrastructure. There was no second given so the motion was dead.

Ordinance 25-468 was presented to the board in final draft that listed the new traffic signs, changes in traffic signs and the existing traffic signs in the village since they were not listed in the new code book. Dwayne Whittington made a motion to accept to pass the ordinance. Kelly Bate seconded the motion. The motion carried. All yeas.

Next on the agenda was the discussion of hiring police for the village. George stated he did not have any new information on this. George mentioned Sesser wanted to do a contract with the village. Kelly mentioned that she spoke to the mayor of Sesser and Detective, Kirk Packer and they were willing to provide a contract for police to Valier as they have 7 full time officers. They would be willing for their police committee to meet with our police committee to draw up a contract. George stated that he did

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Not see any need for this as we have a contract with the Franklin County Sheriff's department to provide police for the village. He stated we would table the police for the village to next month.

Jeff Spiller presented 2 quotes on purchasing an additional chainsaw for the street/alley department. The first quote was from John Deere/Sydenstricker Nobbe for a 25" Stihl chainsaw for \$579.99. The second quote was for a 25" Stihl chainsaw from Rural King for \$859.99. Jeff mentioned this was the last one they had and it was a display model. After this was sold, they would go up in price. Mike and Jay were in agreement to purchase the one from John Deere. Kelly Bate made a motion to purchase the chainsaw from John Deere. Dwayne Whittington seconded the motion, Motion carried. All yeas.

At this time, George had Chris Scroggins present the financial reports. Chris presented the balance sheet and the profit & loss statements by fund for the period ending December 31, 2025. He went over the claims report of bills from December 23 to February 10, 2026. A motion was made by Kelly Bate to accept the reports and pay the claims. Second was given by Marshall Johnson. Motion carried. All yeas.

Chris presented a copy of the final audit for fiscal year ending April 30, 2025. He mentioned if anyone had any questions and wanted to meet with him, he would go over it in more detail. He also recommended that the village pay off the fire department loan from FREDCO that was refinanced with the State Bank of Whittington this fiscal year. George stated he would see that it was on the next month's agenda.

Under new business, the board took action on allowing the current full time village employees to be allowed to carry over 40 hours of vacation to the next calendar year if they chose to do this. Kelly Bate made a motion to amend the time off policy to allow this. Jeff Spiller seconded the motion. Motion carried. All yeas.

Next on the agenda was to discuss amending village ordinance 90.01 abandonment of vehicles. Derek Parvin had requested this and he was not present at the meeting so it was decided to table this to the next meeting when he could attend.

At this time the meeting was opened for public comment. Ted Farmer spoke regarding what the village was doing about vandalism as a plaque on the wall at city hall had been damaged with memorabilia in it. George stated cameras had been reviewed at city hall and they showed no one caused the plaque to fall off the wall. It just came off on its own.

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A resident that lived north of the Valier Patch stated that people had been burning tires out at the Valier Mine property. He wanted to know who policed it and if they had been warned about doing this. George stated it was part of the village and it had recently been sold. He would look into who owned it and have the village issue a warning to them on illegal burns.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Kelly Bate. Jeff Spiller seconded the motion. Motion carried. All yeas. Meeting was adjourned at 7:31 pm.



Gina Shurtz, Village Clerk