

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

May 27, 2025

The regular monthly board meeting was held on Tuesday, May 27, 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 6:30pm.

Roll Call was as follows: Kelly Bate, present; Rob Blondi, present; , 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; and Mike Gulley, village worker.

At this time, the village president asked trustee Gale Burzynski to give an invocation. Afterwards, the pledge of allegiance was recited by the public body.

Rob Blondi made a motion to approve the April 28, 2025 regular board meeting minutes. Second was given by Kelly Bate. Motion carried. All yeas.

Chris Scroggins presented the claims report of bills from April 29 to May 27, 2025. He also reviewed the financial reports as of April 30, 2025. He told any of the board members if they would like to meet with him to discuss any of the financials more in depth or governmental accounting for municipalities, he would be glad to do that. A motion was made by Gale Burzynski to accept the reports 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. A resident complained of cars speeding down her street and asked when the new stop signs would be installed or changed. Kelly Bate stated the new signs had been purchased and they were supposed to be put up.

On behalf of the Valier Women's Club, Sue Vercellino mentioned that the club was conducting a raffle for a grill and accessories to be able to purchase a police radar gun for the new police car. This will be given out at the town yard sales/flea market on Saturday, June 7th.

Village president, George Dudzinski presented a mayor's report. He had met with Franklin County Sheriff, Kyle Bacon. He ensured George that the sheriff's department would help the village in any way they can and gave the village a donation of police supplies. George also stated that we had received a notice of violation from the Illinois Commerce Commission regarding the gas line that was hit July 2, 2024. George set up OSHA training that Jay, Mike and he would attend in June regarding this. The Valier

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High School Alumni Association has started working on the memorial and hopes are to get it in place by May 28th, weather permitting.

Under correspondence, George said the grant reporting for the water tower was deficient but had been taken care of by Tammy Campbell at PSC Engineering. We have received the draft of the new code of ordinance book to review and we have a 60 day extension to review it. Homefield Energy has sent out letters on the electric aggregation to opt out. The Rend Lake Conservancy District is going to provide a leak allowance and adjust our water bill on the large leak we had off of Sesser Lake Road a few months ago. George stated SIOC was giving filing cabinets away and we just had to make arrangements to pick them up, which he was going to do within a week.

George assigned new committee appointments to the board of trustees and handed them out (See attached Village of Valier 2025 Committee List). He would like each committee chairperson to present their report each month. Mike Gulley has resigned as building code inspector and George will assume this role until someone else can fill the position. George also spoke with the village attorney regarding board members serving as code enforcement officers. Our village attorney advised against this and stated it would be better to seek a private individual.

Under committee reports, Mike Gulley presented the fire department report. They had 2 calls: 2 medical emergencies – lift assists.

There was no police report presented. Jeff Spiller stated he had met with Johnathan Ashlock and Andrew Cairel. He went over what was expected of them. He stated the new police car had to have a repair already coming back from getting the camera and equipment moved to it.

George reported for water/sewer that we had a major break in town on May 13th. The village workers and he worked through the night to get it fixed.

There was no report for the street/alley departments.

Under parks/recreation, the ball field behind city hall has been graded and cleaned up.

Under public health, George stated that Rich Weaver from Bi-County Health Department had sent out letters of violations on 9 properties and 1 pool.

Rob Blondi made a motion to accept the committee reports. Gale Burzynski seconded the motion. The motion carried. All yeas.

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Under old business, George reported the water salesman is fixed.

George asked that the board reconsider their vote from the April 28, 2025 meeting on raising the water and sewer rates. After much discussion, the board decided to leave the vote as it stands with the 3% increase on water and sewer in town and 10% increase on water to out of town customers. A cap on water bills of a balance of \$500.00 or more was discussed before water would be disconnected and it was tabled so George could look into this further and see how many customers it would affect.

The board was asked to take action on the mosquito contract with Bobby Kelly that was brought up at the April meeting. After much discussion, the board felt like the mosquito treatment was not helping that much for the cost the village incurred. George remarked with Bi-County Health Department issuing violation letters to residents on weeds, vacant properties and swimming pools; this would be more helpful in the abatement of mosquitoes. Marshall Johnson made a motion to not renew the contract and Jeff Spiller seconded the motion. Motion carried. All yeas.

George asked the board to reconsider their vote from the April 28, 2025 meeting to give the old police car to the fire department for their use on fire calls. The police committee felt like the village should have it for a backup if something goes wrong with the newer police car. After some discussion, the board decided to leave the vote as it stands and give the police car to the fire department.

George mentioned that the village had spend a lot of money on the police department in the last year and at this time felt like we should not be spending anymore village funds on police equipment until the police department was producing positive results. Gale Burzynski made a motion that he was in agreement on this. Rob Blondi seconded the motion. Motion carried. All yeas.

George stated he discussed with the village attorney, Jonathan Cantrell, if the village could legally remove resident's trash receptacles if they are not removed from the streets. Jonathan advised against this due to this being a potential public health issue if residents do not have a receptacle to put their trash in.

Under new business, George stated that Jim Taylor would be here at 6:15pm at the June 23rd regular board meeting to take a photo of the newly elected village board and encouraged them to be picture ready.

George presented a new plan to help with the timely mailing of water/sewer bills and save the village postage. The village currently pays for a bulk mailing permit at a cost of \$350.00 annually although the

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village is still being charged the current postcard rate of 56 cents per bill. If we mail the approximately 272 Valier resident's water/sewer bills in a postage paid envelope that the post office will provide, we will save approximately \$152.32 per month/\$1,827.84 annually a year in postage and Valier resident's bills will be put in their mailboxes by the Valier postal staff. This will save the village money and get the bills to residents quicker. Dwayne Whittington made a motion to move forward with this. Gale Burzynski seconded the motion. Motion carried. All yeas.

George mentioned that there is an issue with keys for city hall. We have a lot of keys that no one knows what doors they go to and some village employees/officials do not have access to keys when they need them. He would like to have key control with a lock box. He presented a quote From Vern's Locksmith for \$250.00 and a quote from Amazon for \$120.00 just for the lock box. After discussion, Gale Burzynski made a motion to go with the quote from Vern's Locksmith since he was local and the village could contact him if we had issues. Marshall Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried. All yeas.

George contacted the Illinois Department of Corrections (IDOC) about bringing in a work crew from the Murphysboro boot camp to work in the village this summer to mow, weed -eat, paint and other town clean up. They would be supervised by IDOC staff. Marshall Johnson made a motion to do this. Jeff Spiller seconded the motion. Motion carried. All yeas.

Kelly Bate presented some costs of equipment that the baseball coach's, Thad Snell and Tim Reiman wanted the village to pay for on ball field #2 in Valier. They were asking for sand at a cost of \$26 per ton for a total of \$520.00. Home plate \$85.97, pitching rubber \$64.95 and bases with anchors at a cost of \$286.95. After much discussion, this was tabled. The board felt like they could due fundraising to offset these costs and would like for them to come to a board meeting to address the board.

It was discovered that Ordinance 24-452 regarding the salary of the village president to be effective May 1, 2025 had a scrivener's error and needed to be revised. Ordinance 25-459 is correcting this ordinance on the salary of the village president from \$300 annually to \$300 per month based on what was enacted at the September 23, 2024 meeting. Rob Blondi made a motion to adopt this ordinance to amend the original ordinance. Marshall Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried by a vote of 7-0. All yeas.

At this time, George announced that the board would be going into executive (closed) session to discuss some legal matters and complaints on a village official, village employee and volunteer at 8:27pm.

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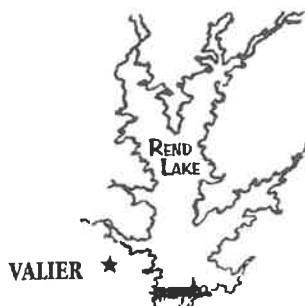
Rob Blondi

David Kent

A motion to adjourn was made by Kelly Bate. Gale Burzynski seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:49pm.



Gina Shurtz, Village Clerk



Village of Valier

Committees 2025

Water and Sewer:

Rob Blondi (chairman)
Marshall Johnson
Kelly Bate

Public Health:

Jeff Spiller (chairman)
William Whittington
Kelly Bate

Ordinances:

Gale Burzynski (chairman)
Rob Blondi
Jeff Spiller

Parks:

Marshall Johnson (chairman)
William Whittington
Rob Blondi

Streets and Alley:

William Whittington (chairman)
Marshall Johnson
Gale Burzynski

Finance:

Kelly Bate (chair person)
Gale Burzynski
Rob Blondi

Police and Fire:

Jeff Spiller (chairman)
Kelly Bate
William Whittington