

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF:

Gina Shurtz
VILLAGE CLERK

Chris Scroggins
VILLAGE TREASURER

Rodney Potts, PSC Engineers
VILLAGE ENGINEERS

Jonathan R. Cantrell
VILLAGE ATTORNEY

Village of Valier

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

George Dudzinski
VILLAGE PRESIDENT

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

Executive (Closed) Session Meeting

October 27, 2025

Village President, George Dudzinski, called the village board into executive/closed session at 8:18 pm in the small conference meeting room at the village hall to discuss part time police candidates. Roll call was as follows. George Dudzinski, present, Kelly Bate, present, Gale Burzynski, present, Marshall Johnson, present, Jeff Spiller, present and Dwayne Whittington, present. Rob Blondi was absent. Chris Scroggins was also in attendance.

Kelly Bate informed the board that the part time police academy was about 9 to 10 months and would cost the village wages of about \$13,000 as the village would have to pay the candidate for all hours attended part time at 16 hours on the weekend at a minimum. If the village expected the state to reimburse the academy fee, the village could not make the candidate sign a commitment to stay for a certain period. At this time, the board and the village president felt like this was too much money for the village to incur with no guarantees of the candidate staying on for a designated period.

Kelly Bate presented Jonathan Ashlock as a part time police candidate once again and stated he could start immediately. George shared an email correspondence from the village attorney, Jonathan Cantrell that stated the village president or mayor has the authority to appoint police officers under the new ordinance Section 31.60 and Illinois Municipal Code 65 ILCS 5/3.1-30.5. The board does have to approve his appointments and until then, the police officer can be hired in a temporary role. George stated he did not want to put Jonathan Ashlock forward as a police officer candidate at this time.

George asked the board if they had any potential police candidates and Dwayne Whittington mentioned that Kirk Packer might be interested in coming back. Discussion was had about how his past performance was when he was the village police chief before. George stated he would contact him and let the board know his decision.

George asked the board what his budget was for the village Christmas party this year. He reported they spent \$914.00 on the caterer at last year's Christmas party. The board agreed that \$1,000 should be the budget based on last year's amount and increased food costs.

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Kelly mentioned that we needed to keep in mind the salary and bonuses for village workers that we normally set in November or December for the next calendar year. George said we would most likely do this in December.

Chris mentioned that we had a loan from FREDCO on the fire engine about 10 years ago and we owed \$60,801.54 on the original loan. FREDCO did not give the village the correct amount that needed paid off to them before they dissolved. The village refinanced the amount we were given as owed by FREDCO with the State Bank of Whittington. He would like to put this difference in amount owed on the books as a liability until he knows for sure the village is not obligated to pay for this. He will reach out to the village attorney and the USDA and see what they want the village to do. He would like to get this taken care of in this fiscal year and pay off of the existing loan in March or April.

Chris also mentioned that we typically pay the fire department staff at the end of the year and hand out their checks at the Christmas party. In the past, the fire department staff were paid like they were contractual workers, but they are really employees of the village. He said he would need to take payroll taxes from the employee's checks of about 15%-20%. He would like to increase their wages to make up for this difference. He will investigate this further and report back what he recommends for a rate of pay for them.

Chris wanted to let the board know that in his professional opinion the proposal that Ted Farmer presented to the village to pay for a miner's memorial may not be legal. A municipality can only use public taxpayer money for public projects. He recommended the board consult the village attorney on the legality of this.

A motion to adjourn was made by Gale Buzynski. Jeff Spiller seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 9:10pm to return to the regular open meeting.



Gina Shurtz, Village Clerk