

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF:

Gina Shurtz
VILLAGE CLERK

Chris Scroggins
VILLAGE TREASURER

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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

July 28, 2025

The regular monthly board meeting was held on Monday, July 28, 2025 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 and Dwayne Whittington, present. Other village officials present were village treasurer, Chris Scroggins and village attorney, Jonathan Cantrell.

The pledge of allegiance was recited by the public body.

At this time, village president, George Dudzinski turned the meeting over to Rodney Potts, the village engineer for an update on the sewer/lagoon projects. Rodney provided maps of the sewer system in town and they have been marking sewer lines and gathering information for the project. He stated the main line north of Lincoln St. would have to run differently to try to not tear up the road as much and other lines would be run off the sides of roads. They are also looking at the man holes. He has Robert Risley with Water Technology scheduled to come out and look at the lagoon sludge. We should receive 2 reports soon on the sludge elevation and the smoke testing study of the sewer lines.

Rob Blondi made a motion to approve the June 23, 2025 regular board meeting minutes and the special meeting minutes from July 17, 2025. Second was given by Gale Burzynski. Motion carried. 4 yeas, 1 nay. Minutes stand approved.

Chris Scroggins presented the claims report of bills from June 24 to July 28, 2025. A motion was made by Rob Blondi to accept the report and pay the claims. Second was given by Jeff Spiller. Motion carried. All yeas.

At this time, the meeting was opened up for public comment. A resident had a complaint about the weed eating the village was doing in the right of way areas and the spraying of weed killer in ditches being done too early in the year. He felt like in the dry days of summer it could possibly cause a fire and would need to be reapplied later. George stated he would look into this matter.

Sue Vercellino asked if the club could use the village hall for the annual craft fair on December 6, 2025 and the American Legion Park on November 22, 2025 for the lighting of the Christmas tree. She was told these items would have to be put on the agenda in order for the board to take action. She asked if some of the tree limbs could be trimmed over the pergola at the park. She also stated the club would like to

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fix the bulletin board in front of the post office. They would also like to see the electric and the kitchen at the community building upgraded. George stated he would see what he could do. The village clerk stated the Valier Women's Club could get with her or Jay on fixing the bulletin board.

Sarah Craig mentioned she would like to have access to the kitchen when she or anyone rents the small room at the village hall. She offered to pay more for the use of the kitchen facilities. George said he would look into this to see what could be done.

Another resident mentioned that residents were not keeping their lawns mowed. She asked if there was someone like a code enforcement officer to enforce these violations. George said the village was trying to find someone and he would look into the lawn violations.

Another resident asked for more detailed minutes of the public comments. The village clerk stated the prior monthly meeting minutes were currently 5 pages. She also stated the minutes are only required to be in summary form. She remarked if the board feels there is something missing, they are able to ask for additions or corrections.

Village president, George Dudzinski presented a mayor's report. He discussed with the board that a resident came in to obtain a building permit to put up a storage building put on his property. The resident went ahead and had the building delivered without getting approval for the placement of it on the property. George went to the resident's property and measured where it was. He told the board he thought it was in violation of the code and would need to be moved. After discussion on it, it was agreed that it should be moved and a letter should be drafted to send to the resident about the violations and that he would need to move it.

Under correspondence, Jeff Spiller addressed the IDOC work crew that was scheduled to come into town. He said the projects we have are waiting to be approved still but they have an opening in mid August to come in for a week and work. The board agreed they should get them to come and do what they could in that time frame.

George mentioned that the fire department had been notified of potential fire risks with the extremely high temperatures. A warning recommendation was asked to be given to residents.

George stated he received a renewal notice from the Southern Illinois Mayor Association. He asked if it needed to be voted on and the village treasurer said that this was a normal annual cost that the village paid.

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George shared a letter with the board from the Illinois Commerce Commission regarding the Ameren gas line that was hit by a village worker last year. The letter stated that since the Village of Valier complied with the investigation and had no prior violations, no penalty was going to be assessed.

George mentioned a letter was received regarding Illinois Standard Building Codes for municipal buildings and it is to make sure all buildings are in compliance. Jonathan Cantrell stated the Capital Development Board was in charge of building code standards and he would take a look at the letter.

George stated there was an issue with portable flash drives belonging to the prior police chief who was asking to get them back. He was not going to allow entry into the police department without the Franklin County Sheriff's office sending someone to be present in the police department office.

Under committee reports, Jeff Spiller spoke on behalf of the fire department. They had 4 calls: 1 medical emergency, 1 lift assist, 1 traffic accident out of town and 1 mutual aid given. Jeff stated Banner Fire Equipment had been out to do pressure checks. He said a primer motor was needed for the 2017 E1 Fire engine and estimated to cost \$1,000.00. The jeep needed a new battery that was purchased for \$64.99. The brush truck needs to be fixed. He recommends they take it to Zimmerman's Garage to get fixed. He will get an estimate on what it will cost. They think it needs an alternator. Jolt completed the work on the hose reel on July 16th. Chris stated he needed a bill from them and he would reach out to get it.

George asked the attorney if there was a rule on how much the village president could spend without board approval. He stated the village has to stay within the amounts appropriated in the annual budget. Outside of that, a resolution needs to be passed addressing this and what to do in emergency situations.

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

Under old business, George presented a draft of the park usage form to be used for the Village of Valier parks by individuals and groups to be voted on. Rob Blondi made a motion to accept the form. Gale Burzynski seconded the motion. Motion carried. All yeas.

George discussed the revision/approval of the ordinance code book. The village attorney recommended the approval of the code with the changes that have been made and the board can always make revisions every 3 to 5 years typically. Jeff Spiller made a motion to accept the ordinance code book with the final revisions. Gale Burzynski seconded the motion. The motion carried. All yeas.

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The village clerk brought it to the board's attention that the board had previously voted to fix the bay doors at the fire department at the December 4th, 2024 meeting. A copy of the December 4th, 2024 minutes was provided to the board on the vote along with a quote from Mike Williams. The board had not moved on this in hopes the village might receive a grant that was applied for in February 2025. The village did not receive the grant and the bid was presented from Mike Williams to fix the doors for \$4,600.00. Roger Lloyd has material available for this project. Jeff said he would get with Mike Gulley on arranging for the work to be done.

The village had a chicken ordinance proposal that was presented in the past but was never officially voted on and was being presented again. After much discussion, Marshall Johnson made a motion to not have an official ordinance for this. Gale Burzynski seconded the motion. Motion carried. 4 yeas, 1 nay.

At the May 27, 2025 meeting the village board voted to accept a postal mailing proposal of the village water bills. This proposal was found to not be legal and the village board needed to rescind the vote. Rob Blondi made a motion to rescind the prior vote for this postal proposal. Marshall Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried. All yeas.

Under new business, Chris Scroggins presented Ordinance 25-462, the annual budget and appropriation for the 2026 fiscal year that the board needed to take action on. The total appropriation was for \$1,293,700. After a short discussion, Rob Blondi made a motion to accept the ordinance. Marshall Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried. All yeas.

There was not any new information on the ditch and tile work on Lincoln St. North of the Methodist Church so this item was tabled.

There was not any new information on the hiring of a code enforcement officer, so this item was tabled.

Marshall Johnson stated he would like to have the lettering on the fire department changed. It is not very visible and he thinks another color, like white would be better. He will look into this and report back at the next meeting on more details and cost.

No one was in attendance to address the board with a proposal regarding the ball field usage and rehab project so the item was tabled.

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The item of the decorative bikes was brought up on the agenda. There was quite a bit of discussion regarding this topic. Sue Vercellino stated the Valier Women's Club would agree to maintain the bikes and keep the weeds from growing around them. Marshall Johnson asked the village attorney what liability the village has if someone gets hurt on the bikes. The village attorney said the liability was most likely minimal risk but if the board voted for the decorative bikes now, then the board would be potentially at more risk of liability, although he thought it would still be minimal risk. Gale Burzynski made a motion to keep the decorative bikes up year round with the condition that the Valier Women's Club maintains them. Rob Blondi seconded the motion. Dwayne Whittington and Marshall Johnson voted to abstain from voting. Jeff Spiller voted no on the bikes to stay up. The Village President, George Dudzinski was asked to vote to break the tie and he chose to abstain from voting. The motion was dead.

Marshall Johnson stated that the stone rock titled the "Martin H. Buchanan Building" outside the community building/city hall looked like it needed to be sealed. He stated he thought that it was supposed to be done annually to preserve it and wanted to make sure that was being done. He made a motion for this to be done annually. Gale Burzynski seconded the motion. The motion carried. All yeas.

Solicitors/Peddlers was revisited but it was determined that the village needs a code enforcement officer to enforce it. The matter was tabled until one can be hired.

Under other, a potential police applicant was in attendance at the meeting. His name was David Ramsey. George stated the village was looking into paying for police academy for an applicant with the possibility of reimbursement if they fulfill the academy requirements. It was decided the village needed to take applications and review them.

George also stated the radar gun that was purchased for the new police car had still not been installed.

A motion to adjourn was made by Dwayne Whittington. Marshall Johnson seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:38pm.



Gina Shurtz, Village Clerk