

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
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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

Executive (Closed) Session Unofficial Meeting

May 27, 2025

Village President, George Dudzinski, called the village board into executive/closed session at 8:27 pm in the small conference meeting room at the village hall. All board members were present. George asked to go into closed session regarding complaints against a village official, village employee and volunteer as well as village legal matters. A vote in the regular session was not taken to go into executive/closed session so this meeting was unofficial.

George first discussed that all board members and village staff need to take some required trainings regarding the Open Meetings Act (OMA) and Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). He asked each board member to arrange to take this training within 30 days if possible.

George stated that he had nearly 20 complaints about the decorated bicycles in town and asked a board member to volunteer to tell Sue Vercellino, the president of the Valier Women's Club, to take them down. Jeff Spiller volunteered to do this.

George handed out a letter that was regarding a formal complaint from a federal employee that works at the office of Valier. The letter mentioned that there had been false claims made against them by a village trustee, village resident and village employee. It stated they would like the false claims to stop. If they do not, they have talked to their attorney and postal inspectors, and will take necessary action. Also attached with this letter was documentation of a phone conversation held on May 7, 2025 at 1:00pm with George and the Postmaster of Christopher, IL. It addressed multiple complaints from 3 women regarding the Valier Post Office Associate and that the complaints had been investigated by the post office inspector general. The letter stated the claims were unfounded and the post office inspector general has started detailed files on those making complaints for future purposes to escalate matters to the courts if the situation is not corrected. He asked the board if they wanted to take formal action on this complaint. Several board members mentioned issues they knew about that occurred with the post office associate and they expressed that this was one person's word against another person's word. They felt like this was not a village board matter.

George told the board that Lisa and Mike Gulley would be taking vacation at the end of June and first week of July. He asked who filled in for them while they were off. Kelly Bate stated usually the village

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president or a designee would come in a few days and check the messages and mailboxes. Also a sign was posted of limited hours.

George remarked that a village resident had filed a lawsuit against the village stating their water meter cover was left open by a village employee and they fell in it. They have hired an attorney and it has been turned over to our village attorney, Jonathan Cantrell to handle. He asked the board members to not confront or discuss this matter with the resident or her attorney and let the the village attorney handle it.

George instructed the board to exhaust all means possible by asking other village officials answers to their questions before calling the village attorney with any matters. We are charged quite a bit for legal fees and questions and this can be addressed internally sometimes.

George had been made aware that a village employee was charged for the rental of the village hall large conference room when they had a funeral service for their son. George felt like the village should reimburse him since a village trustee's funeral service was held at the city hall for free in the past. The board members were unaware of this and agreed with George. All of the board members signed a letter George had typed expressing the board's appreciation of his service to the village and apologies that this was handled this way in the past.

A motion to adjourn was made by Rob Blondi. Gale Burzynski seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:48pm to return to the regular meeting.



Gina Shurtz, Village Clerk