

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF:

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VILLAGE CLERK

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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

Special Meeting July 17, 2025

A special board meeting was held on Thursday, July 17, 2025 at 5:00pm by the village board of trustees to call for a censure resolution for the village president of misuse of postal property, tampering with police property and evidence and official misconduct allegations. The meeting was held in the ballroom at the village hall.

A motion was made by Dwayne Whittington to allow Kelly Bate to conduct the meeting as president pro tem. Gale Burzynski seconded the motion. The motion carried by a vote of 5 yeas and 1 nay.

Roll Call was as follows: Kelly Bate, present; Rob Blondi, present by phone from 5:00pm to 5:21pm and then present in person after 5:21pm; Gale Burzynski, present; Marshall Johnson, present; Jeff Spiller, present, Dwayne Whittington, present and George Dudzinski, present. The village attorney, Jonathan Cantrell was also present.

Kelly Bate read an opening statement to address the serious concerns regarding the conduct of the village president, George Dudzinski. The allegations include illegal activity involving the misuse of postal property, misconduct while in office and interference with police evidence and ongoing investigations. She explained that a censure is a formal expression of disapproval issued by a governing body. While it does not carry legal penalties or remove a public official from office, it serves as a public and official condemnation of actions that are deemed unethical, inappropriate, or in violation of public trust. Kelly went on to explain how the meeting would be conducted and asked for everyone to maintain decorum throughout the meeting. The board would be moving to deliberate and vote on three key matters: A formal request for the village president's resignation, a commitment to fully cooperate with any current or future investigations and an official renunciation and condemnation of the village president's alleged actions.

Censure resolution 1 against Village President George Dudzinski for misuse of federal postal materials and violation of public office responsibilities and censure resolution 2 against Village President George Dudzinski for interference with police operations and potential unlawful conduct involving departmental evidence and property were read out loud in their entirety by the village clerk, Gina Shurtz.

After the reading of the resolutions, the meeting was opened up for the board of trustees to respond regarding the resolutions for up to 5 minutes. Dwayne Whittington spoke that he was newly elected to the board in May 2025 and felt like he could not trust or continue to work with the village president. He was appointed to be on the police committee and was upset that he was not involved or made aware of any of the issues going on until the police chief and patrolman resigned at the June 23, 2025 regular

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meeting. Marshall Johnson stated he was newly elected to the board as well in May and felt like the things that were addressed in the resolutions should not be going on by any elected official. He said the board has more important issues to address then dealing with this. Gale Burzynski spoke and stated he was not happy with the things that had been brought to his attention. He has served on the board for many years and this had never happened with any past village presidents. He stated he has trust issues with the current village president. Jeff Spiller spoke and said he joined the board to help the village and felt like that is what the village president was trying to do. Rob Blondi spoke and stated he just wanted everyone to work together and do things for the betterment of the village.

At this time, the meeting was opened up for public comments for 30 minutes. Each respondent was given 3 minutes to speak. Several respondents questioned the evidence that the village board had and asked the board to reconsider the censure as he had only been in office for a few months. They felt like they elected the village president and he had not been given enough time to do the job. They also questioned the board's motives and not getting along with the village president. Other respondents said they trusted the board's decision and if they did not have confidence in the village president's ability, he should resign.

George was allowed to give a statement up to five minutes and chose to address the meeting after the public comments. He stated that the board was presenting false accusations against him and he was not going to resign.

At this time the board took action to vote on the censure resolutions. Gale Burzynski made a motion to pass censure resolution 1 against Village President George Dudzinski for misuse of federal postal materials and violation of public office responsibilities. A second motion was not given so this resolution was dead and did not pass.

Dwayne Whittington made a motion to pass censure resolution 2 against Village President George Dudzinski for interference with police operations and potential unlawful conduct involving departmental evidence and property. Gale Burzynski seconded the motion. A vote was taking by the board and it passed with a vote of 5 yeas and 1 nay.

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Kelly Bate read a closing statement and stated the board would be moving forward with censure resolution 2 for an investigation to the Franklin County State's Attorney and or the Illinois Attorney General's Office, and or the Federal Bureau of Investigations and or the Illinois State police.

Motion to adjourn was made by Dwayne Whittington. Second was given by Rob Blondi. The meeting adjourned at 6:37pm.



Gina Shurtz, Village Clerk