

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF:

Gina Shurtz
VILLAGE CLERK

Chris Scroggins
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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

October 27, 2025

The regular monthly board meeting was held on Monday, October 27, 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, present; Rob Blondi, absent; Gale Burzynski, present; Marshall Johnson, present; Jeff Spiller, present, Dwayne Whittington, present and George Dudzinski, Village President present. Other village employees present were village treasurer, Chris Scroggins and code enforcement officer, Derek Parvin.

The pledge of allegiance was recited by the public body.

Gale Burzynski made a motion to approve the September 22, 2025 regular and executive session board meeting minutes. Second was given by Kelly Bate. Motion carried. All yeas.

Chris Scroggins presented the financial reports and reviewed the cash and fund balances. Chris went over the claims report of bills from September 23 to October 22, 2025. Chris also proposed that the village pay off the fire engine loan this fiscal year and would provide more details. A motion was made by Kelly Bate to accept the report and pay the claims. Second was given by Dwayne Whittington. Motion carried. All yeas.

Village president, George Dudzinski presented a mayor's report. George reported that the village had to pay C&C Pumps over \$5,000 to come and service the lift station. We no longer have a service agreement with them, and one pump is still down as they are having trouble finding parts. George is looking into this further.

George presented the holiday schedule for 2026 from the Franklin County Board that the village will adopt as its holiday schedule as well.

George mentioned that the village was being audited on the motor fuel tax funds from 2017 – 2025. They are behind due to shortage of staff in doing the audits and are hoping to get things caught up. Chris said he would work on providing the documentation needed for this in December and January.

George reported he was able to get the software reconnected to the network for the camera backup and is now looking for the most cost-effective route to do this.

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George stated he had contacted Vern's Locksmith for a bid on the locks on the front doors to the village hall and was waiting for a quote.

George mentioned that some village employees had time off this year and would not be able to take all of it. The village board needs to address this issue.

George also stated that the village had a community member that was willing to do some fire enginemaintenance. He is working on a proposal that he will present next month.

Under committee reports, Jeff Spiller reported on behalf of the fire department. They had 6 calls: 1 mutual aid, 1 field fire out of town, 1 field fire mutual aid, 1 lift assist and 2 medical emergencies.

George reported on behalf of the police committee that the evidence and property that the village had was turned over to the Franklin County Sheriff's office since the village currently does not have an active police department.

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

Under old business, Marshall Johnson spoke in regards to the cost on the lettering on the fire department. He presented a quote and pictures from Ham Sign Inc. for \$3,968.13. Jeff Spiller asked a Valier resident. Jim Barnhart to speak at this time. He proposed that he would paint the existing letters white at a cost of materials of \$104.22. He would provide labor costs for free. Gale Burzynski made a motion for Jim Barnhart to do the work. Jeff Spiller seconded the motion. Motion carried. All yeas. Jeff Spiller said he would facilitate the project being completed.

The board had previously voted at the February 24, 2025 meeting to add new stop signs and change others to facilitate safer traffic control but it had not been done. A map was presented of the changes. After much discussion on which signs were to be added or changed, George said he would see to this being completed by the village employees.

It was discussed that some ordinances that were previously passed needed to be added to the new code of ordinance book. George stated that the committee assigned to this should meet and address this matter. They can meet with him on any ordinancesthey want to add.

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Under a new business, Ted Farmer reported that the Valier Alumni High School Memorial was done except for pouring some concrete and planting grass when the weather gets better, which will most likely be in the spring.

Ted Farmer also proposed that the village should have a miner's memorial the same size as the Valier Alumni High School one. He presented a picture of it and the lettering on the monument. He stated it would cost \$15,000 with \$7,500 up front and the rest could be paid later. He suggested that the village pay for it. Since this was not on the agenda for the village to pay for it, it was decided to table it to next meeting.

George had previously reported that when a village worker was moving tree limbs to take out to the lagoon he knocked over a resident's basketball goal in the right of way and broke it. He asked the board to consider paying to replace it at the last meeting and it was tabled since it was not on the agenda. He presented a quote of \$129.00 from Wal-Mart. After some discussion, Jeff Spiller made a motion for the village to pay for this with the understanding this was a one- time deal. No second was made so the motion was dead.

The board reviewed the costs of the room rentals at the village hall and considered whether to charge everyone, including community organizations. After much discussion, Jeff Spiller made a motion to eliminate charging a separate room rate for non-Valier residents and to allow all community organizations to use the facilities for free, if they clean the room after use. These changes would be effective January 1, 2026. The bluebird room deposit will remain at \$25.00 with the rental fee remaining at \$25.00 for all non- community organizations/individuals, The ballroom room rental deposit will remain at \$125.00 and the room rental fee remaining at \$200.00 for all non-community organizations/individuals. Gale Burzynski seconded the motion. Motion carried. All yeas.

The Community Action Committee (CAC) would like the use of the Totland Park and pavilion for Saturday, November 15, 2025 to hold a fall festival from 11:00 am to 3:00 pm. They would also like use of the rectangular tables. Jeff made a motion to allow this. Gale seconded the motion. Motion carried. All yeas.

Next on the agenda was the matter of outstanding water bills. Lisa provides a list of those outstanding bills each month and there are currently only about 5. Also, all residents are required to pay something

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on their bills by the second water bill due date, or they will be disconnected. Customers are required to pay a \$50.00 reconnect fee to get their services back on. It was decided not to take any further action on this at this time.

Next topic discussed was residents living in houses with no electricity, water or sewer services. The village cannot do anything about residents that have no electricity as we do not provide that service. Jeff Spiller addressed the water issue. He stated that Bi-County health department stated Franklin County does not have an ordinance on this, so there is nothing they can do to enforce this. Residents do not have to have water and can get it from other sources. The village can pass their own ordinance. George stated that the village has an ordinance under Section 171.01 on a flat rate for water and sewer. He stated the village would have to prove they are using the sewer to charge this. He suggested the water/sewer committee investigate this further and possibly revise the ordinance.

Derek Parvin presented a proposal to provide a peddler pass QR code for village residents to scan to see who are the peddlers that are valid to be in the village. This would be available on the village website at villageofvalier.org. Derek is working with Jim Taylor, our website developer to facilitate this. This would not cost the village anything to have. Jeff Spiller made a motion to move forward with this, and Dwayne Whittington seconded the motion. Motion carried. All yeas.

Trick or treat hours were set for Friday, October 31 from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm this year,

Residents of East Gelston St. had submitted a petition to close down the one block area of 200 East Gelston St. on Halloween night during trick or treat hours to have a block party for children to attend. After some discussion, Jeff Spiller made a motion to allow this, and Gale Buzynski seconded the motion. The motion carried. 3 yeas and 1 nay.

At this time the meeting was opened for public comment. Sue Vercellino spoke on behalf of the Valier Women's Club upcoming event of the Christmas lighting in the park on November 22, 2025. She asked if she could get some help putting up the Christmas tree/decorations and making sure that electricity and water would be available for the food truck and vendors. Several in attendance stated they would help and George told her to let him know when she wanted the utilities available.

A motion to adjourn the open session and go into closed session to discuss the part time police officer candidates was made by Dwayne Whittington. Gale Burzynski seconded the motion. Motion carried. All yeas. Meeting was adjourned to close session at 8:10 pm.

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A motion to return to open session from closed session was made by Marshall Johnson. Jeff Spiller seconded the motion, Motion carried all yeas. Meeting was adjourned at 9:11pm.



Gina Shurtz, Village Clerk