

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
Valier, Illinois 62891

PHONE: 618-724-9393 FAX: 618/724-7241
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

August 25, 2025

The regular monthly board meeting was held on Monday, August 25, 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 via telephone; Rob Blondi, present; Gale Burzynski, present; Marshall Johnson, present; Jeff Spiller, present, Dwayne Whittington, present and George Dudzinski, Village President present. Other village staff present was village treasurer, Chris Scroggins, village water clerk, Lisa Gulley and village worker, Mike Gulley.

The pledge of allegiance was recited by the public body.

At this time, village president, George Dudzinski stated to the village board and the public that the meetings were being recorded and live streamed on social media so that those who are not able to attend the meetings can still listen to the meetings.

Rob Blondi made a motion to approve the July 28, 2025 regular board meeting minutes. Second was given by Jeff Spiller. Motion carried. All yeas.

Chris Scroggins presented the claims report of bills from July 29 to August 25, 2025. A motion was made by Gale Burzynski to accept the report and pay the claims. Second was given by Kelly Bate. Motion carried. All yeas.

At this time, the meeting was opened up for public comment. A resident had a question regarding the last financial reports posted on the village website that were dated from 2021 and asked if they could be updated. Chris Scroggins, the village treasurer stated this information could be obtained from the Illinois Comptroller site online. He stated he would check with the attorney to see if it is required to be posted on the village site since they are available elsewhere. This resident also questioned if all the board members had taken the Open Meetings Act and FOIA trainings. 2 board members stated they had not. Another resident asked about the sewer lines and when they would be redone. George stated we are in the process with the engineering firm to work on these currently.

Village president, George Dudzinski presented a mayor's report. He stated the 2021 police car had received a safety recall. He received some correspondence to a former village police chief. He had also received a FOIA request from a LTC of the US Army Reserve for police records. He was able to contact the Franklin County Sheriff's office to arrange for an officer and a village employee to be here while he

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reviewed police records to satisfy the request. Kelly Bate asked George if the village could look into building a wall alongside the police department separating it from the storage room that has the network access and the bathroom area. George asked Kelly to look into the cost to do this and he would look into the cost to move the network and report back at the next meeting. George also asked for a board volunteer to organize and label the keys in the lockbox for the village. Kelly Bate stated she would volunteer to do this. George also reiterated that he gave board members 90 days to get the OMA and FOIA trainings done and it was past that date now. He would appreciate compliance with this.

Under committee reports, Jeff Spiller spoke on behalf of the fire department. They had 4 calls: 1 medical emergency, 1 rural tractor fire, 1 traffic accident out of town and 1 electric wire down. Jeff also reported on the IDOC work crew that was in the village the week of August 11th to August 15th. They have completed the following: The back of the firehouse was painted, the old paint on the old water department building and old voting office building was removed and repainted, fuel tank behind the maintenance building was painted, trimmed trees behind the community building to make mowing easier, starting cleaning along Overhead Bridge and the pine trees behind the community building. Will finish this when the weather is cooler and the crew returns. Total spent for this project was \$789.77 in paint, tools and supplies and the remaining amount left is \$210.13 of the \$1,000.00 budget approved.

George reported under street and alley that the village workers had tree damage to clean up from the last storm. He also reported under water and sewer, that a sewer line had to be fixed.

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

Under old business, George presented a material quote on the ditches and tile triage projects for Lincoln and Johnson Streets, as well as some sidewalks. The quote was \$15,482 for material only. Labor cost would have to be added. The village clerk and Chris Scroggins mentioned that the village had motor fuel tax money that could be used for this type of project if we get an IDOT resolution passed before the end of the calendar year. It was decided to table this so George could talk to the village engineer about drafting the resolution so the board could pass it.

Three candidates were in attendance at the meeting seeking the position of village code enforcement/ordinance officer. Steven Mc Innes, Dennis West and Derek Parvin. Each candidate addressed the board and the board asked them questions. The board voted on which candidate they would recommend as the code enforcement officer. Dennis West received 1 vote and Derek Parvin

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received 5 votes. The candidate hired would be hired on an employment contract with a 90 day probationary period.

Gale Burzynski mentioned that Steven Mc Innes was in violation of a village ordinance by planting shrubs in the right of way along his house. He stated the mayor had issued him a permit to plant them and Gale questioned George on this. George stated this was his under his digression and this topic was not in line with the agenda. He said this would have to be discussed at another time.

Marshall Johnson did not have any cost information on the lettering on the fire department so this issue was tabled.

George presented the minutes from the October 18, 2021 board meeting that showed that a chicken coop ordinance proposal was presented and passed by a vote of 3-1. The ordinance was never sent to the attorney by the mayor at the time to put in ordinance format or filed with the county. George stated that we needed to decide on whether to rescind this previous vote or move forward with it. After much discussion, Dwayne Whittington made a motion to rescind the previous vote and not have an ordinance. Marshall Johnson seconded the motion. Vote was as follows: 4 voted to rescind the vote, 1 voted not to rescind the vote, and 1 voted to abstain. Motion carried and no formal ordinance will be considered at this time.

Under new business, Sue Vercellino spoke on behalf of the Valier Alumni monument/lighting proposal. Ted Farmer has stated that he will pay to have a street light installed and pay for 5 years for the cost of the electric. It was decided to table this to the next meeting so they could obtain the total cost involved.

Sue Vercellino also stated they would like to put 2 15 foot flag poles on the sides of the monument. They would like to fly the American Flag and possibly a Bluebird Flag. Gale Burzynski made a motion to approve this. Rob Blondi seconded the motion. Motion carried. All yeas.

Next on the agenda was a potential police applicant. His name was David Ramsey and his resume and references were handed out at the meeting to the board. The board members asked him questions and wanted to know if he would be willing to sign a commitment to pay back the academy fees over time and sign a contract for a term of employment. He stated he would consider this. In light of new hiring standards that have come down from the State of Illinois in the month of August, the board decide to table this and see if there were any other qualified applicants available.

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Resolution 25-463, a Resolution Authorizing the Installation of Video Surveillance Cameras in the Village of Valier City Hall and Related Municipal Offices was presented and read by the village clerk. The village

president stated he would like a camera put in his office and the police office. George stated the current system we have does not record for more than 14 days at most depending on movement and we do not have back up storage. He will look into the cost of this and report back.

Resolution 25-464, a Resolution Adopting Rules and Procedures for Public Comment at the Village of Valier Public Meetings was presented and read by the village clerk. After some discussion, Gale Burzynski made a motion to adopt this resolution. Jeff Spiller seconded the motion. Motion carried. All yeas.

Resolution 25-465, a Resolution on Spending Limits for the Village President for the Village of Valier was presented and read by the village clerk. The resolution proposed an amount of \$500 without the approval of the board of trustees for emergency purposes. George did not think that was enough if we had a water break as the couplings are \$500 each. He said he would do some research and reach out to some other towns and see what they recommend.

Chris Scroggins asked the board to revisit the hiring of Derek Parvin as the code enforcement officer if they wanted him to start right away. He recommended that we pay \$350.00 a month and mileage reimbursement based on the standard mileage rate of 70 cents. No cell phone or gas stipend would be issued. Jeff Spiller made a motion to do accept this proposal. Rob Blondi seconded the motion. Motion carried. 5 yeas, 1 no.

A motion to adjourn was made by Gale Burzynski. Jeff Spiller seconded the motion. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:42pm.



Gina Shurtz, Village Clerk