

Draft Minutes

The Village of Oblong Board of Trustees met in regular session on Wednesday, March 5th, 2025, in the Farley Room of the Municipal Building.

Members Present: Mayor Teresa K. Fielder, Clerk Ladora Boyd, Trustee Amanda Miller, Trustee Dave Hasty, Trustee Terry “Toad” Ochs, Trustee Jay Haines, Trustee Jerry Snider and Trustee Carrie Hays.

Other Present: Police Chief Colton Williamson, Public Works Superintendent Gary Lanter, Resa Shaner (Crawford County Development Association Executive Director), Angie Catt (Oblong Chamber of Commerce), Dana Tylka (Oblong Chamber of Commerce), Justin Yager, Angela Ridgway and Daughter.

1. The meeting was called to order at 5 pm by the Mayor. Teresa asked everyone to stand and say the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Motion by Jerry, with a second by Toad, to approve the February 5th, 2025, Board Meeting Minute. All ayes, motion carried.
3. There were no additions or deletions to the agenda this month.
4. There were no Delinquent Water Bill customers this month.
5. Angie Catt (Oblong Chamber of Commerce) came before the Board to give an update on the Mini Park Restoration Project and let the Board know about upcoming events. She stated that Raymond Mast will be starting on roof construction for the new building in the Mini Park. He hopes to be done by late Spring. Then will have some more fundraisers for electric updates. May 10th will be the Food Truck Battle, Chalk Drawing on the Sidewalk Contest and the Spring Town-wide Garage Sales. She asked if the Board would allow for the first block of South Range Street to be blocked off for the Food Truck Battle. The Board granted her request.
6. Motion by Toad, with a second by Jerry, to adopt Ordinance #2025-O-658 “An Ordinance to Amend Chapter 24, Motor Vehicle Code, Article III – Stop and Through Street, Section 24-3-3 of the Revised Code of Ordinances of the Village of Oblong, Crawford County, Illinois”. Roll call vote as follows: Amanda – aye, Carrie – aye, Dave – aye, Jay – aye, Jerry – aye, Toad – aye; motion carried.
7. Teresa stated that she had sent Mr. Birch an e-mail to clarify the matter of paying property tax on just the area he is wanting to lease from the Village. Teresa stated that she had not received an answer from Mr. Birch; so, she asked for a motion to table the ordinance until April Board Meeting. Jerry stated that he is not in favor of the lease of public lands when there is non-public land available. Motion by Jerry, with a second by Carrie, to table Ordinance #2025-O-659 “An Ordinance Authorizing the Lease of Real Estate (Ground Lease – Gene Birch) until the April 2nd Board Meeting due to not hearing from Mr. Birch if he wants to proceed with the lease. All ayes, motion carried.
8. Motion by Dave, with a second by Jay, to approve the Village’s Enterprise Zone Building Permit. All ayes, motion carried. (See attached copy.)

9. Teresa stated that she had met with Mr. Greene (Weber, Heap, Ayres and Greene) in regards buildings owned by Carolyn Higgins where are located at 107 and 109 South Range Street, Oblong. Teresa stated that Mr. Greene feels that the Village will need to start the process of condemnation of these buildings. There was some discussion on this matter before the vote to start the process of condemnation these buildings. Motion by Toad, with a second by Carrie, to proceed with the condemnation process on the buildings located at 107 and 109 South Range Street, Oblong. All ayes, motion carried.
10. Teresa stated that she also spoke to Mr. Greene on the matter of the Village doing payroll for the Oilfield Museum's seasonal help. She stated that as per Frank Weber the Village should no longer do the payroll for the Oilfield Museum's seasonal help. Motion by Carrie, with a second by Toad, for the Village to no longer do the payroll for the Oilfield Museum's seasonal help. All ayes, motion carried.
11. Teresa stated that the Village had received a TIF Grant Application from Justin Yager for roofing, siding on eastside and getting the electric up to code for the building located at 101 West Main Street, Oblong. Amanda stated that she had the estimates for what it would cost for all the necessary improvements to this building's exterior, which would include making it safe on the eastside from possible brick falling off the building. Motion by Amanda, with a second by Toad, to award a TIF Grant in the amount of \$30,000 (this will be paid out upon receipts turn in up to the full amount). Roll Call vote as follows: Amanda – aye, Carrie – aye, Dave – aye, Jay – aye, Jerry – aye, Toad – aye; motion carried. Item 12 on the agenda has been taken care of in the above action.
12. Mayor's Comments:
 - a. Teresa stated that the Village Board would like to give their condolences to the family of Macy Kintner. Her services are Saturday, March 8th, from 10 am to 1 pm at the First Christian Church in Oblong.
 - b. Teresa stated that she had a letter from Public Works Superintendent Gary Lanter with specific date of retirement. Teresa stated that she would like to say a few words before reading Gary's letter. (See attached statement). Teresa read Gary's letter (see attached letter), Gary last working day will be June 5th, 2025. He will then use the remainder of his vacation/personal days and 10 sick days, which make his retirement date as of July 29th, 2025. Motion by Jay, with a second by Carrie, to accept Gary Lanter's retirement letter with specific dates. All ayes, motion carried.
 - c. Teresa mentioned that there will be a Document shredding event on Friday, March 21st, from 9 am to Noon (12 pm) held at the Robinson Public Library located at 606 North Jefferson Street in Robinson
 - d. Teresa stated that Resa had filed the DECO Oblong \$50,000 grant, for the installation of Ameren Gas & Electric for Phase II of Park Meadows Subdivision on Wednesday, February 26th. Resa stated that there were a few questions asked after the submission, but that they had been answered.
 - e. Pusey vs Village of Oblong: Teresa stated that the Village has received an e-mail from IML Risk Management on Friday February 21st, stating the following: Still waiting to hear if Plaintiff's attorney is satisfied with our supplemental written discovery so that we can move forward with taking the Oblong employee/representatives' depositions.
 - f. Rebuild Downtown & Main Street Grant (DCEO): Taegan from Greater Wabash Regional Planning Commission called Wednesday, February 19th, stating that the awards announcement had been made; this would be for the South Range Street

Project. Teresa said she hasn't been able to confirm with Taegan if in fact the grant has been awarded.

- g. Robinson/Crawford Enterprise Zone: There will be an informational meeting on the Enterprise Zone Thursday, March 6th, 2025, at 6 pm Municipal Building.
- h. There may be a food truck at Gage Postelwaite's some time next week if they get their permit from the Crawford County Health Department.
- i. March 18th, at 6 pm there will be a Mayoral/Trustees Candidate Forum sponsored by Oblong High School Future Business Leaders of America.
- j. Republic Spring Clean-up will be Tuesday, April 15th, 2025.
- k. B & H Electronics Recycling Event will be Saturday, May 3rd, 2025, at the Oblong Park from 9 am to Noon (12 pm).

13. Reports of Committees:

- a. POLICE: Jay stated that he did not have anything to report, but Colton did. Colton stated that there have been eleven (11) applications for the Full-time Officer position turned so far, deadline for applications is Friday, March 28th, 2025. The applicants are qualified officers, most are local.
- b. BUILDING/PARK: Carrie had nothing to report this month.
- c. SIDEWALK/LIGHTS: Toad had nothing to report this month.
- d. STREET/ALLEY: Jerry stated that he is looking into grants for tree planting, what size and species. This is mainly for West Main Street where a lot of trees have died off.
- e. WATER/SEWER: Dave stated that there will be a committee meeting tomorrow (March 6th) at 7 pm this will be a closed session so that the committee can open the resumes for PW Superintendent's position and Office Manager's position. Dave stated that the candidate interviews will be sometime next week. Gary stated that he had finished with the EPA Survey/walk through inspection.
- f. FINANCE: Amanda stated that the committee had interview on February 27th, 28th and March 1st for the open position. Treasurer/Clerk Report: Ladora stated that she had given the Trustees a copy of January's and February's Checking/CD balances and monthly interest.
- g. PARK MEADOW SUBDIVISION COMMITTEE: Toad stated that the Ameren Illinois bid for the electric relocation was \$45,789.15. Motion by Toad, with a second by Jerry, to give Reed Hardiek the ok for Ameren to do the electric relocation and pay the cost of \$45,789.15. All ayes, motion carried. Toad mentioned that he and Jay met with Freddy Taylor (Lincoln Real Estate Development) on Tuesday, March 4th, evening. Mr. Taylor is wanting to have gas lines installed in the Phase II of Park Meadows as soon as possible.
- h. AD HOC: (Beautification, Unsafe Buildings & Ordinances): Teresa stated that Colton will be contacting individuals that are needing to clean-up their yards and other ordinance violations.

14. Motion by Jay, with a second by Toad, to pay the monthly bills that were on the Warranty List and any utility bills, bills that will incur a late fee or reimbursements to employees or AC deposit or Water Customer deposit. All ayes, motion carried.

15. There was one Public Comment this month. Angie Catt, as a business owner, wanted to thank the Board for their support of Justin Yager to save the building at 101 West Main Street.

16. There were no other items of business this month.

17. Motion by Amanda, with a second by Jay, to enter into executive session – concerning personnel at 5:49 pm. All ayes, motion carried.

Motion by Carrie, with a second by Amanda, to come out of executive session at 6:16 pm. Amanda stated that she will contact the person, whom the Trustees are interested in, to fill the open position in the Clerk/Treasurer's Office to see if the person will accept the offer. If that candidate does not accept the offer then she will contact the Trustees second pick.

18. Motion by Carrie, with a second by Amanda, to adjourn the meeting at 6:20 pm. All ayes, motion carried.

Respectively Submitted,

Ladora Boyd, Clerk