

Draft Minutes

The Village of Oblong Board of Trustees met in regular session on Wednesday, April 2nd, 2025, in the Farley Room of the Municipal Building.

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

Absent: Trustee Amanda Miller.

Other Present: Public Works Superintendent Gary Lanter, Terry Manhart (Public Works Superintendent in training), Angie Catt (Oblong Chamber of Commerce), Dana Tylka (Oblong Chamber of Commerce) and Des Raj (Oblong Mart Owner).

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. Ladora swore-in Terry Manhart as the new Public Works Superintendent upon Gary’s Retirement.
3. Motion by Carrie, with a second by Jay, to approve the Board Meeting Minute of March 5th, 2025, Special Board Meeting Minutes of March 19th and 31st, 2025. Five (5) ayes, motion carried.
4. There was one deletion to the agenda this month. (See item eleven)
5. There were no Delinquent Water Bill customers this month.
6. Angie Catt (Oblong Chamber of Commerce) came before the Board to give an update on the Mini Park Restoration Project. She stated that the construction of the new building in the Mini Park has been completed. John LeFever is working on the electric and will help with the installation of lights. The landscaping, memorial bricks and fire pit construction will be the final phase of the project.
7. The Oblong Antique Tractor and Engine Club requested the use of the Park for their annual Antique Tractor and Engine Show August 8th, 9th and 10th, 2025. The Board granted their request.
8. The Board looked over the Fiscal Year 2026 Working Budget before voting. Jay, with a second by Carrie, to approve the Village’s Fiscal Year 2026 Working Budget with a total amount of \$2,293,883.48, which was \$351,597.24 less than last year working budget. Five (5) ayes, motion carried.
9. Teresa stated that Mr. Greene (Weber, Heap, Ayres and Greene) has prepared an ordinance in regards to the buildings owned by Carolyn Higgins which are located at 107 and 109 South Range Street, Oblong. Motion by Toad, with a second by Jerry, to adopt Ordinance #2025-O-569 “An Ordinance to Condemn Unsafe and Dangerous Buildings at 107 South Range Street and 109 South Range Street, Oblong Illinois”. Roll Call vote as follows: Carrie – aye, Dave – aye, Jay – aye, Jerry – aye, Toad – aye; motion carried

10. Teresa stated that she had received an e-mail from Gene Birch stating that he is no longer wanting to lease from the Village. He is looking for a different location. The ordinance for the lease is no longer necessary.
11. Teresa stated that the hiring of Public Works Office Assistant, Village Treasurer and Village Clerk was completed at the March 31st Special Board Meeting.
12. Mayor's Comments:
 - a. Teresa wanted to announce to the public our new employees: besides Terry Manhart as Public Works Superintendent, Ladora Boyd will be the Village Treasurer, Stacey Brock will be the Village Clerk/Administrative Assistant, and Sessaly Miller will be the Public Works Office Assistant. Stacey will begin on Monday, April 7th and Sessaly will start the following week. We are glad to be moving forward with the new crew.
 - b. Teresa stated that the advertisement for Building & Groundskeeper/Utility Worker vacancy has been in the paper and is on the Mayor's Facebook page and Village web page. Deadline for those resumes will be Friday, April 11th.
 - c. DECO Office of Grants Management update: Infrastructure costs for site prep installation of Ameren Gas & Electric for Phase II of Park Meadows Subdivision totaled \$56,897.13. Resa filed the Village DCEO Grant in February. We are awaiting this reimbursement grant of \$50,000.
 - d. Mary Heath Grant: Carrie has been working on prep work for the May 1st deadline for Mini Park Restoration Project.
 - e. Pusey vs Village of Oblong: Teresa stated that we are stilling waiting for word on depositions.
 - f. Rebuild Downtown & Main Street Grant (DCEO): Resa has found out from DCEO that this Grant award will not be announced until the end of March. Teresa said that the Village may still be in the running for this grant. If the Village does not receive this grant, we will have no other option but to move forward with obtaining financial funding for the South Range Street and Sidewalk Improvement Project.
 - g. OSLAD Grant: The deadline for completion of all our projects at the lake is April 30th, 2025. Illinois Department of Natural Resources has offered an extension on projects that required some extra time. John Stones suggested a 2-month extension to finish the Walking Path/Park Project. A letter was sent requesting a 2-month extension on March 25th, stating that due to severe weather during Spring & Winter of 2024 plus some supply chain issues on the light assemblies the project completion would not be done on time. The IDNR stated that the extension request must be for 6-month, so another letter was sent on March 28th with a request for 6-month extension.
 - h. The Oblong Fire Department will be hosting a Fundraiser for Colton & Makayla Williamson on April 12th, from 11 am to 1 pm at the firehouse.
 - i. Republic Spring Clean-up will be Tuesday, April 15th, 2025.
 - j. B & H Electronics Recycling Event will be Saturday, June 7th, instead of May 3rd, 2025, at the Oblong Park from 9 am to Noon (12 pm).

13. Reports of Committees:

- a. POLICE: Jay stated Colton has e-mailed the applicants for the Full-Time Officer's position to inform them that the power test will be reschedule for a later in May.
- b. BUILDING/PARK: Carrie stated that she hopes to have the Mary Heath grant application for Mini Park ready to turn in by the end of the month.
- c. SIDEWALK/LIGHTS: Toad had nothing to report this month.
- d. STREET/ALLEY: Jerry stated that he feels that the Board needs to revisit the back access from Casey's to West Illinois Street due to the fact that there was information

given to Taylor Law that was not correct. Motion by Jerry, with a second by Toad, to have the correct information sent to Taylor Law and see if this changes the attorney's opinion. Four (4) ayes and one (1) nay, motion carried.

- e. WATER/SEWER: Gary stated that Ridgeview is still having issues with their sewer line which is located at South Garfield and Ridgeview Lane. They have a plumber coming soon to work on it. But for now there is a section of South Garfield blocked off.
- f. FINANCE: Teresa asked if there was anything to report from the committee. Jay stated that he had nothing to report. Treasurer/Clerk Report: Ladora stated that she had given the Trustees a copy of March's Checking/CD balances/monthly interest and updated sheet on revolving loans.
- g. PARK MEADOW SUBDIVISION COMMITTEE: Toad stated that Ameren had the electric easements flagged and would start installing in the near future.
- h. AD HOC: (Beautification, Unsafe Buildings & Ordinances): No report this month.

14. Motion by Toad, with a second by Jerry, 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. Five (5) ayes, motion carried.

15. . There was one other item of business this month. Jerry asked about the sidewalks heading towards the High School. He stated that the new sidewalks should be wider and asked about the easement from property owner. Gary stated that John Stone has the paperwork for easements ready and it is in the plans for the sidewalks to be widened, which is in the grant work that has been submitted for Rebuild Downtown & Main Street Grant.

16. There were no Public Comments this month.

17. Motion by Carrie, with a second by Toad, to adjourn the meeting at 5:33 pm. Five (5) ayes, motion carried.

Respectively Submitted,

Ladora Boyd, Clerk