

**June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

The Village of Oblong Board of Trustees met in regular session on Wednesday, June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025, in the Farley Room of the Municipal Building.

**Members Present:** Mayor Teresa K. Fielder, Clerk Stacey Brock, Treasurer Ladora Boyd, Trustee Dave Hasty, Trustee Terry “Toad” Ochs, Trustee Earl Deckard, Trustee Justin Yager, Trustee Byron Sanders, and Trustee Carrie Hays.

**Other Present:** Public Works Superintendent Gary Lanter, Terry Manhart (Public Works Superintendent in training), Chief of Police Colton Williamson, Dale Davis, Haley Bricker, Kelsey Meeks, Teresa Sprague, David Woods (Palestine Mayor) Gerald Weaver.

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 Carrie, with a second by Earl, to approve the Board Meeting Minutes of May 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Six (6) ayes, motion carried.
3. There were no deletions or additions to the agenda.
4. There were no Delinquent Water Bill customers this month.
5. The Mayor spoke on an opportunity for the park at 308 S Range. Kelsey Meeks approached her about a need for a safe secure area for those with disabilities such as Autism. This park was deeded to the Village by Alberta Atkins in 2004. Since this time, the park has not been utilized. This park will not be exclusive to special needs but will be a park for all. Ms. Meeks was present and spoke about the need for her son and the need of those in her support group, which is 80 members and counting. This group is willing to help with fundraising for the project. They also plan to utilize the park from many surrounding counties. Motion by Byron with a second by Carrie to move forward with seeking out grants to get this project going. Six (6) ayes, motion carried.
6. Chief of Police Colton gave an update on 406 S Adams Street. The property is in a Trust and the Trustee needs to be located. The lawn has been mowed. The Village will continue to send invoices related to the property to the Attorney until a lien can be placed.
7. There have been complaints about trash being left at the Crawford County Solid Waste Recycle Building that is not recyclable. The trash is becoming a nuisance. The Mayor asked for any suggestions to cut down on the trash problem.
8. The Board reviewed two (2) TIF Grant Applications. Fishes & Loaves and Angel’s Cup of Heaven. Motion by Toad with a second by Earl to approve both applications for \$3500 each. Six (6) ayes, motion carried.
9. Crawford County 4-H requested to put up a 12 x 16 building on the West end of the Fairgrounds for picnic table storage. Motion by Dave with a second by Byron to approve. Six (6) ayes, motion carried.

10. Motion by Byron with a second by Carrie to adopt Ordinance No. 2025-O-661  
“Appropriation Ordinance” with a total amount of \$3,001,672.50. Upon Roll Call vote: Earl – aye, Dave – aye, Carrie – aye, Toad – aye, Byron – aye, Justin – aye; motion carried

11. Mayor’s Comments:

- a. Teresa acknowledged Dale (34 years) and Gary (43 years) for their years of service. Oblong has been fortunate to have dedicated employees.
- b. Teresa requested on behalf of the Oblong Chamber to close the first block of S Range Street from 4pm until after the concert on June 21<sup>st</sup>. There will be a car show and ribbon cutting on that day as well. The Board okayed the request.
- c. Update: 107& 109 S Range – Met with attorney May 20<sup>th</sup>. Until a petition to the court is filed, we are okay as long as the owner continues to move forward with repairs. Mrs. Higgins left a message stating she has a contractor and a mason giving estimates for repair. We haven’t received an update of those findings.
- d. On May 9<sup>th</sup>, we received an IDOT notice of funding opportunity. The Grant application was submitted before the June 1<sup>st</sup> deadline for the S Range Street project. Stacey and the Mayor attended an IDOT informational meeting in Olney on May 12<sup>th</sup> which was helpful for this grant application.
- e. Congressman Mike Bost-FY26 Community Project Funding opportunity – with the help of Greater Wabash Regional Planning Commission, John Stone, and letters of support the final submission was completed April 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- f. DCEO Office of Grants Management update: Infrastructure costs for site prep, gas, and electric in Phase II of Park Meadows totaled \$56,897.13 Resa filed our DCEO Grant in February. Waiting on the reimbursement grant of \$50,000.
- g. Mary Heath Grant was submitted for mini park updates. Should know by June 16<sup>th</sup> if we are a recipient.
- h. Pusey vs. Village of Oblong: depositions – no update
- i. OSLAD Grant: on a 6-month extension waiting for the final light assemblies.
- j. B & H Electronics Recycling Event will be Saturday, June 7<sup>th</sup> at the Oblong Park from 9 am to Noon (12 pm).
- k. Village Trustee emails update: Village attorney stated this is not a requirement, but a choice. All personal correspondence can be subject to subpoena through the Freedom of Information Act.
- l. Teresa received some concerns about no signage for an emergency contact or lost money at the car wash on S Range. The owner has passed. The next of kin will be contacted for information.

12. Reports of Committees:

- a. POLICE: Colton stated June 7<sup>th</sup> will be the physical test for the applicants. Interviews will be held the last week of June for those passing the physical test.
- b. BUILDING/PARK: Byron had nothing to report this month.
- c. SIDEWALK/LIGHTS: Justin had nothing to report this month.
- d. STREET/ALLEY: Toad had nothing to report this month.
- e. WATER/SEWER: Was brought up whether or not to update the NSF form. Agreed to leave as is.
- f. FINANCE: Dave stated he will be looking into grants for blasting and recoating the water tower.
- g. PARK MEADOW SUBDIVISION COMMITTEE: Toad stated there were two new houses going up. The electric and gas is complete.
- h. AD HOC: No report this month.

13. Motion by Toad, with a second by Earl, to pay the monthly bills that were on the Warranty List. Six (6) ayes, motion carried.

14. There were no other items of business this month

15. There were no Public Comments this month.

16. Motion by Carrie, with a second by Earl, to adjourn the meeting at 5:50 pm. Six (6) ayes, motion carried.

Respectively Submitted,

Stacey Brock, Clerk