

July 2nd, 2025

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

Members Present: Mayor Teresa K. Fielder, Treasurer Ladora Boyd, Trustee Dave Hasty, Trustee Terry “Toad” Ochs, Trustee Earl Deckard and Trustee Byron Sanders.

Absent: Clerk Stacey Brock, Trustee Justin Yager and Trustee Carrie Hays.

Other Present: Public Works Superintendent Terry Manhart, Chief of Police Colton Williamson, Haley Bricker (CCDA), Resa Shaner (CCDA), Brent Dotson, David Woods (Palestine Mayor), Angie Catt (Oblong Chamber of Commerce President), Cheryl Osborn, Macey Richards and Angela Ridgway (Robinson Daily News).

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:06 pm by the Mayor. Teresa asked everyone to stand and say the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Motion by Toad, with a second by Byron, to approve the Board Meeting Minutes of June 4th, 2025. Four (4) ayes, motion carried.
3. There were no deletions or additions to the agenda.
4. There were no Delinquent Water Bill customers this month.
5. Angie Catt stated that the Mini Park Ribbon Cutting on June 21st was well attended. She said that there have several comments about how nice the Mini Park looks. Angie stated that the Chamber would like to have a Farmer’s Market once month and would like to have performances once a month. Angie stated that Cody Murphy’s bid for concrete for fire pit and concrete for the pavers was almost \$10,000 less than the highest bid. July 14th is the cutoff for purchasing memorial bricks. August 23rd is the date for the Chamber Golf Outing.
6. Motion by Byron, with a second by Earl, to adopt Ordinance #2025-O-662 “An Ordinance Adopting a Return-To-Work Policy for Employment with The Village of Oblong”. Roll vote as follows: Earl – aye, Dave – aye, Toad – aye, Byron – aye; motion carried.
7. There were two Revolving Loan Applications turned in. The Finance Committee met on June 30th to look over both applications. The Guideline which were USDA’s state that 1/3 of the requested amount will be from the Village of Oblong Revolving Loan Fund (See Finance Committee Meeting Minutes)
 - a. Possible new owner of Ollie Pop Pet Grooming put in an application for \$25,000 to purchase and do some renovations. The Committee recommended a loan of \$8,333.33. Motion by Dave, with a second by Toad, to
 - b. The other loan was from Angel’s Cup of Heaven for \$50,000 to remodel. The Committee recommended to table this application until getting some clarification on a few questions the committee had. Motion by Dave, with a second by Byron, to table the decision for this application.
8. Mayor’s Comments:

- a. Teresa stated the Village Board would to express their sympathy to Travis Smith and Family at the loss of his dad, Jerry L. Smith.
- b. Teresa mentioned that Teagan Garner, from Greater Wabash Regional Planning Commission, (who has helped the Village with our State and Federal grants) has resigned, with her last day being June 23rd, 2025. Teagan was an asset for Oblong, we wish her the best of luck with her future plans. At this time GWRPC has not hired a replacement.
- c. Update: 107& 109 S Range – Until the time a petition to the court is **filed**, we are ok as long as the owner **continues** to move forward with building repairs. On June 10th, 2025, received a letter from Ms. Higgins along with a proposal from Walker Masonry and Piercefeal General Contractor. At this time that was the last communication the Village has received. Teresa stated that she had written a letter to Ms. Higgins on July 1st, 2025, stating that the Village would need more concrete dates and/or updates no later than July 15th, 2025.
- d. Pusey vs. Village of Oblong: depositions – no update.
- e. Atkins Mini Park: Received a quote for the fencing which was e-mailed from Stacey. 386' of 6' fence: Galvanized-\$9,382.74 or Black- \$11,105.00. Stacey is preparing a 54 Oblong Grant application and also will prepare one to be turned in to the Claypool Grant for financing.
- f. Just a note – that the Oblong Antique Tractor and Engine Show will be August 8th, 9th and 10th at the Park.
- g. Grant Updates:
 - IL Department of Transportation Notice of Funding Opportunity – waiting on announcement.
 - Congressman Mike Boss FY2026 Community Project Funding – waiting on August announcement.
 - DCEO Office of Grants Management update: Awaiting on the reimbursement grant of \$50,000. Resa stated that her understanding is once State Systems change over to the new fiscal year, the grant will go for a bond release – probably August or September.
 - Mary Heath Grant: Village was notified on June 12th that Village of Oblong was a recipient for full funding request of \$16,650.00 for stage at Mini Park. if we are a recipient. Teresa stated that she appreciated all board members who came and showed their support of the downtown area.
 - OSLAD Grant: this project at the Park is now **Completed!** The remaining 3 light assemblies have been installed. IL Department of Natural Resources will be sending a sign to be displayed at the park. Once that is delivered and a picture is sent to our grant writer at South Central IL Regional Planning Commission, the close out package will be prepared so final reimbursement will be made to the Village.

9. Reports of Committees:

- a. POLICE: Colton stated that the interviews of two candidates were done on June 15th and 25th. Colton stated that he felt Taylor Smith would be an asset to the Village as the new Full-time police officer. There is a condition that Taylor will need to do a second physical test on July 22th. If Taylor passes, he will start Police Academy in August. Motion by Earl, with a second by Byron, to hire Taylor Smith as the new Full-time Police Officer with the condition that he will need to take and pass a second physical test. Four (4) ayes, motion carried.

- b. BUILDING/PARK: Byron had nothing to report this month. Terry asked the Board if the two couches and recliner could be removed from the Activity Center permanently. Motion by Byron, with a second by Earl, to permanently remove the two couches and recliner from the Activity Center. Four ayes, motion carried.
 - c. SIDEWALK/LIGHTS: No report this month.
 - d. STREET/ALLEY: Toad had nothing to report this month.
 - e. WATER/SEWER: No report this month.
 - f. FINANCE: Dave stated that he is will be looking into grants for blasting and recoating the water tower.
 - g. PARK MEADOW SUBDIVISION COMMITTEE: Toad stated there are house going up. Toad stated that the pipe that was put in between the two retention ponds is not low enough and the ground is eroding. There was some discussion on this matter. It was decided to see what it will cost to lower the pipe before going forward. It was brought to the attention of Board that the ditches in Phase II of Park Meadows are too steep to mow. Terry Manhart stated he would contact Senco and asked what the solution would be.
10. Motion by Toad, with a second by Earl, to pay the monthly bills that were on the Warranty List and any bills that may incur a late charge and any reimbursements. Four (4) ayes, motion carried.
11. There were no other items of business this month
12. There were no Public Comments this month.
13. Motion by Dave, with a second by Toad, to adjourn the meeting at 5:46 pm. Four (4) ayes, motion carried.

Respectively Submitted,

Ladora Boyd, Deputy Clerk