

August 6th, 2025

The Village of Oblong Board of Trustees met in regular session on Wednesday, August 6th, 2025, in the Farley Room of the Municipal Building.

Members Present: Mayor Teresa K. Fielder, Treasurer Ladora Boyd, Clerk Stacey Brock, Trustee Dave Hasty, Trustee Terry “Toad” Ochs, Trustee Earl Deckard and Trustee Byron Sanders, Trustee Carrie Hays, Trustee Justin Yager. Earl was away on official business for part of the meeting.

Other Present: Public Works Superintendent Terry Manhart, Chief of Police Colton Williamson, John Stone (Stone & Waggoner), Chris Hinterscher, Dana Tylka, Angie Catt (Oblong Chamber of Commerce President), and Angela Ridgway (Robinson Daily News).

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:03 pm by the Mayor. Teresa asked everyone to stand and say the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Motion by Carrie, with a second by Dave, to approve the Board Meeting Minutes of July 2nd, 2025. Five (5) ayes, motion carried.
3. There were no deletions or additions to the agenda.
4. There were no Delinquent Water Bill customers this month.
5. John Stone presented the invoices for the final payment of the OSLAD Project (walking path). Final invoices were for, Stone & Waggoner \$2826.51 and Senco Construction \$24,940. Total construction cost from start to finish was \$525,358.37. John also stated there was an OSLAD Grant available for this year if interested. Motion by Dave, with a second by Byron, to approve the payments to Stone & Waggoner and Senco. Five (5) ayes, motion carried.
6. Angie Catt (Oblong Chamber of Commerce President) stated she is working with Discover Downstate to do a promotional video to highlight The Village of Oblong. The video will include all of Oblong – housing, schools, parks, community, etc. The main purpose of the video is to bring awareness and tourism to our community.

The firepit construction at the mini park is a little behind schedule due to the amount of rain we have been receiving.

Angie asked the Board for permission to shut down Range Street around 3:15pm on Friday October 24th (day before Fall Follies) to allow for vendors to get set up and start selling that evening. There is also a Band scheduled to be at the mini park that evening. The Board approved the early shut down.

Angie inquired as to whether or not there is a policy about radio-controlled boats on the lake. She is thinking about adding boat races as a new activity. This is all thoughts and communication at this time.

7. Chris Hinterscher (DBA Freedom Liquors) submitted a TIF Grant application to add two awnings at his business. Application amount is \$3500. Motion by Dave, with a second by Byron, to approve the \$3500 Grant amount. Five (5) ayes, motion carried.
8. Gage Postlewait joined the meeting via video call to discuss the condition of the property behind his business. He would like to get the parking blocks moved and/or painted. He would also like to rake the weeds out of the drainage ditch and possibly plant some hydrangea bushes to “pretty things up.” Gage says he will water and care for the bushes. The Board discussed Gage’s ideas and agreed to explore cost to add rock in the area. The Board does not want any plants/bushes in the waterway. This project was then handed to the Street/Alley committee to discuss and plan.
9. Motion by Carrie, with a second by Byron, to adopt Ordinance No. 2025-O-663 “An Ordinance Amending the Revised Code of Ordinances for the Village of Oblong, Illinois”. Upon Roll Call vote: Dave – aye, Carrie – aye, Toad – aye, Byron – aye, Justin – aye; motion carried
10. Motion by Byron, with a second by Toad, to adopt Resolution 2025-R-3 “Homecoming Parade”. Five (5) ayes, motion carried.
11. Motion by Toad, with a second by Byron, to adopt Resolution 2025-R-4 “Halloween Parade”. Five (5) ayes, motion carried.
12. Motion by Toad, with a second by Dave, to adopt Resolution 2025-R-5 “Hazard Mitigation Plan”. Five (5) ayes, motion carried.
13. The Board approved to adopt the 1% Grocery Tax. An Ordinance for this will be voted on at the September meeting.
14. Mayor’s Comments:
 - a. 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. Ms. Higgins called our Clerk on July 25th stating the masonry work has been done and she is moving forward with all the repairs. (roof repairs and guttering are still on the list)
 - b. Pusey vs. Village of Oblong: An email was received from IML stating Pusey’s attorney wants to have in person depositions. There will be a phone conference with IML on Friday, August 8th to discuss the pending depositions.
 - c. Atkins Mini Park: Happy to announce we were the recipients of a \$5000 grant from 54 Oblong Foundation (May 15th, 2025) to put toward the fence. Kelsey is working on some different fundraising opportunities such as a Monical’s day/night on Tuesday, August 12th.
 - d. We received a receipt from Southeastern IL Community Foundation thanking Oblong for our yearly donation of \$2500 to Paws for Prevention.
 - e. **Safe Routes to School Grant:** Greater Wabash Regional Planning Commission is hosting a Zoom call on August 12th to discuss the possibility of applying for this grant again. Due to the scope of the grant being geared toward grade school students, we have discussed possibly trying to incorporate W. Missouri Street sidewalks to the East side of Oblong Grade School for a better chance at this grant. Grant cycle began August 1st and will go through October 13th.

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 – Palestine did receive their “agreement” but won’t be funded until new fiscal, probably August or September.
- OSLAD Grant: The sign from IDNR has been displayed thanks to our Public Works Department. This project is now COMPLETE! Brooke from South Central IL Regional Planning Commission is working on a close out package to make final reimbursements to the Village.

15. Reports of Committees:

POLICE: Colton stated the new full-time officer, Taylor Smith, was sworn in in Friday, August 1st. He will start at the Academy on August 18th in Belleville to graduate in December 2025.

BUILDING/PARK: Terry stated a lift station that has to be replaced has been ordered. It will be roughly \$20,000 to replace and install.

SIDEWALK/LIGHTS: No report this month.

STREET/ALLEY: No report this month.

WATER/SEWER: No report this month.

FINANCE: Dave stated the Finance Committee will be reviewing and updating the Revolving Loan Policy. The Finance Committee is scheduled to have this meeting August 13th.

TREASURER’S REPORT: All Revolving Loan payments are current. The Village has received the first installment of Real Estate Taxes.

CLERK’S REPORT: There will be a transfer from Quickbooks Desktop to Quickbooks Online to begin on August 11th. This will make some duties more efficient and allow for direct deposit.

PARK MEADOW SUBDIVISION COMMITTEE: Toad stated trenching protocol, by Ameren per Reed Hardiek, is to trench and backfill. Some of the process will be the land owner’s responsibility.

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

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

18. There were no Public Comments this month.

19. Motion by Carrie, with a second by Toad, to adjourn the meeting at 6:24 pm. Six (6) ayes, motion carried.

Respectively Submitted,

Stacey Brock, Village Clerk