

**November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

The Village of Oblong Board of Trustees met in regular session on Wednesday, November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2025, in the Farley Room of the Municipal Building.

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

**Other Present:** Public Works Superintendent Terry Manhart, Resa Shaner (CCDA), Dana Tylka, Angie Catt (Oblong Chamber of Commerce President), and Nick Hinterscher.

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm by the Mayor. Teresa asked everyone to stand and say the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Stacey, Village Clerk, swore in Jay Haines to fill the vacant Trustee Position. Many thanks to Jay for filling this spot.
3. Motion by Earl, with a second by Byron, to approve the Board Meeting Minutes of October 1st, 2025. Six (6) ayes, motion carried.
4. There were no deletions or additions to the agenda.
5. There were no Delinquent Water Bill customers this month.
6. Nick Hinterscher, owner of Floyd’s Place, requested to be open an extra hour on November 26<sup>th</sup>, Thanksgiving Eve. Last Call to be at 12:30 am with doors closing at 1:00 am. The Board approved.
7. Angie Catt wanted to thank everybody for pitching in and helping with this year’s Fall Follies, especially all the extra work done by the Public Works Crew.

This Friday and Saturday is Christmas Open House for the Village’s downtown businesses.

December 5<sup>th</sup> will be Merry Hometown Christmas in the Village. The Fire Department will be hosting a chili supper. Smores kits and a hot cocoa bar will also be a part of the festivities along with a Train that will pick up and drop off at the Mini Park from 5-8 pm. For the safety of all, the first block of South Range will be closed during this time.

8. Superintendent, Terry Manhart, spoke about the new features of our billing software update from Locis 7 to Locis 8. Some of the new features are; Cloud based, two users, IDROP capability, able to send texts/e-mails for bills, boil orders, delinquencies, etc.
9. The Board discussed a TIF Grant Application for B & M Rental Properties to repair the business’s awning. Motion by Dave, with a second by Jay to approve the \$3500 request. Six (6) ayes, motion carried.
10. Motion by Dave, with a second by Byron, to adopt Ordinance No. 2025-O-665 “An Ordinance for the Levy and Assessment of Taxes for the current Fiscal Year for the Village

of Oblong, Illinois”. Upon Roll Call vote: Dave – aye, Jay – aye, Toad – aye, Byron – aye, Justin – aye, Earl – aye; motion carried

11. Motion by Jay, with a second by Earl, to adopt Ordinance No. 2025-O-666 “An Ordinance to amend Division XXXVIII – Utilities Section 38-3-88 Water Rates and Section 38-5-75 Sewer Rates of the Revised Code of Ordinances of the Village of Oblong, Illinois”. Upon Roll Call vote: Dave – aye, Jay – aye, Toad – aye, Byron – aye, Justin – aye, Earl – aye; motion carried
12. The Board discussed how to handle 406 S. Adams Street, in the name of Marnika Ann Ash Living Trust. The property was purchased at a tax sale in 2022 yet has not been taken care of. The house is very dilapidated causing structural safety concerns. The Board decided to have the house demolished. Motion by Earl, with a second by Toad. Six (6) ayes, motion carried. Mayor T will reach out to Mr. Greene to start the necessary paperwork.
13. The Board entered into Executive Session, upon a Motion by Toad, with a second by Earl at 5:31 pm to discuss Real Estate Legal matters. Six (6) ayes, motion carried. Upon discussion, there was a Motion by Byron, with a second by Toad to enter into a farming lease agreement for Phase 3 and 4 in the Park Meadows Subdivision.
14. The second item discussed in Executive Session was to obtain a consensus for acquisition by Adjoiner of Lot 7 to acquire Lot 29 in the Park Meadows Subdivision. There was a unanimous consensus to allow this. The Board came out of Executive Session at 5:45 pm upon a Motion by Earl, with a second by Toad. Six (6) ayes, motion carried.
15. The Board discussed Non-Home Rule Local Sales Tax. This will be a sales tax that will be assessed on anything purchased in the Village and will 100% come back to the Village. Pros and cons were discussed. The Board agreed that this would be a benefit. There will be an Ordinance prepared to be voted on at the next Board Meeting.
16. Mayor’s Comments:
  - a. Gary Lanter has volunteered to be the “Member at Large” for the Park Meadows Committee, alongside Toad and Jay.
  - b. Saturday, November 8<sup>th</sup>, the VFW Poppy Day will be held at the 4-way stop from 8am-12pm.
  - c. Update: 107 & 109 S Range – Barco Roofing was here the week of October 13<sup>th</sup>. The owner was supposed to have brought an itemized list of costs but has not done so as of yet. Steve Green said, at this time the Board has the ability to take the “wait and see” approach. If the repairs are being completed, no other actions need to be completed
  - d. Pusey vs. Village of Oblong – Our attorney, Douglas Keane, received correspondence from Pusey’s attorney that they were unhappy with the offer made by the Village. Village representatives will be giving depositions
  - e. Claypool Grant – We are happy to announce the Village of Oblong was awarded full funding, \$10,000, for fencing and play equipment at the Adkins Park on South Range.
  - f. Safe Routes to School Grant – Surveys from Oblong Grade School and Oblong High School along with letters of support were delivered to Greater Wabash. Much thanks to everyone involved in making this happen. May of 2026 will be the award notification.

Grant Updates:

- IL Department of Transportation Notice of Funding Opportunity – waiting on announcement.
- Congressman Mike Bost FY2026 Community Project Funding – our grant application is still pending.
- DCEO Office of Grants Management update: Awaiting on the reimbursement grant of \$50,000. Haley with CCDA updated on October 17<sup>th</sup> that the Grant Manager expects that grant to be in their office soon.
- OSLAD Grant – Brooke from South Central II Regional Planning Commission, is working on a close out package to make final reimbursements to the Village.

17. Reports of Committees:

- a. POLICE: Our new full time Officer, Taylor Smith, will be graduating from the Academy in one month.
- b. BUILDING AND PARK: Nothing to report
- c. SIDEWALKS AND LIGHTS: Nothing to report
- d. STREET AND ALLEY: Nothing to report
- e. WATER AND SEWER: Nothing to report
- f. FINANCE: Dave, Finance Chair, brought the discussion of employee Christmas bonuses to the Board. Motion by Byron, with a second by Earl to approve a Christmas bonus of \$200 net to the employees. Six (6) ayes, motion carried.

CLERK'S REPORT: Stacey reported that the Village received acknowledgement back from IDOR stating our Ordinance for the Municipal Grocery Retailers' Occupation Tax and Municipal Grocery Service Occupation Tax was received. This will go into effect January 1, 2026.

- g. PARK MEADOWS SUBDIVISION COMMITTEE: Gary and Mike Goss are no longer working with the builders on the Subdivision. There are new people coming in.

18. Motion by Toad, with a second by Justin to pay the monthly bills. Six (6) ayes, motion carried.

19. There were no other items of business.

20. There were no public comments on agenda items.

21. Motion by Jay, with a second by Toad to adjourn at 6:10 pm. Six (6) ayes, motion carried.

Respectively Submitted,

Stacey Brock, Village Clerk