

The Village of Oblong Board of Trustees met in regular session on Wednesday, February 4th, 2026, 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 Jay Haines, Trustee Byron Sanders, and Trustee Justin Yager.

Other Present: Chief of Police Colton Williamson, Haley Bricker (CCDA), Angie Catt (Oblong Chamber President), Dana Tylka, and Gary Lanter.

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:01 PM by the Mayor. Teresa asked everyone to stand and say the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Motion by Dave, with a second by Earl, to approve the Board Meeting Minutes of January 7th, 2026. Six (6) ayes; motion carried.
3. There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.
4. There were no public comments.
5. There were no Delinquent Water Bill customers this month.
6. Angie Catt stated she got approval through the State of Illinois to do an Oblong License plate for America’s 250. You will be able to get a set for \$35 that you can use for 60 days leading up to the Freedom Fest.

The Chamber is getting ready for their Meet and Greet Banquet to be held in March.

7. The Trustees discussed having an Ordinance prepared to prohibit EV charging at the park/campground. Toad made a motion to have the Ordinance prepared, with a second by Byron. Six (6) ayes, motion carried.
8. Motion by Byron, with a second by Earl, to adopt Ordinance No. 2026-O-669 “An Ordinance to amend Chapter 11 – Employee policies of the Revised Code of Ordinances of the Village of Oblong, Illinois.” Roll Call vote as follows: Earl – aye, Dave – aye, Toad – aye, Jay – aye, Justin – aye, Byron – aye; motion carried.
9. Motion by Earl, with a second by Jay, to adopt Ordinance No. 2026-O-670 “An Ordinance amending Article V of Chapter 27 of the Revised Code of Ordinances of Oblong, Illinois regarding use of public receptacles.” Roll Call vote as follows: Earl – aye, Dave – aye, Toad – aye, Jay – aye, Justin – aye, Byron – aye; motion carried.
10. Motion by Byron, with a second by Justin, to adopt Ordinance No. 2026-O-671 “An Ordinance authorizing the lease of real estate (Joe Henry – Cash Rent Farm Lease).” Roll Call vote as follows: Earl – aye, Dave – aye, Toad – aye, Jay – aye, Justin – aye, Byron – aye; motion carried.

11. Mayor's Comments:

- On behalf of myself and the Village residents I would like to thank Terry, Travis, Jason, and Scott for the countless hours of spreading brine, blading roads, and after everything was said and done, worked diligently to remove snow from our downtown area and parking lots. Their dedication is appreciated!
- Pusey vs. Village of Oblong: No update.
- Friday, February 13, from 12:30 – 5:30 pm, there will be a Blood Drive here at the Municipal Building.
- Tuesday, February 17, from 3-6 pm, Crawford County Cares will host a free chili dinner here at the Municipal Building.
- Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO): \$50K reimbursement for Park Meadows infrastructure coming soon – Haley stated she will be doing some reports then asking for reimbursement. Thank you, Haley for all the work you do!
- Congressman Mike Bost – FY26 Community Project Funding OSLAD Grant: On the evening of January 22, 2026, I received a personal call from Congressman Mike Bost informing me that the House passed a transportation, health and security funding package for real results for Southern Illinois in the amount of \$2,236,000. Congressman Bost is hopeful that legislation will soon be signed into law and that Oblong will receive this grant.
- Safe Routes to School Grant: Awaiting May 2026 award notification. Max award is \$250K.
- The Mayor reminded everyone that early voting will start in the Annex on February 5th and the Primary Election is Tuesday, March 17th. Also, on the ballot will be two sales tax increases to be voted on.

12. Reports of Committees:

POLICE: Taylor has finished month 2 of field training.

BUILDING/PARK: No report this month.

SIDEWALK/LIGHTS: No report this month.

STREET/ALLEY: No report this month.

WATER/SEWER: No report this month

FINANCE: Dave brought up that the finance committee needs to meet again to refine the TIF Grant guidelines.

TREASURER'S REPORT: The recent sewer project left the Sewer checking account with a negative balance. The General checking account made a loan to Sewer for \$25,000. The Trustees unanimously agreed, when the Sewer account gets built back up, it will pay the loan back to the General account.

Ladora stated that Westmore Equity has made the request for 75% back of the property taxes they paid in 2025.

CLERK'S REPORT: Stacey brought to the board's attention that some employees still have banked vacation days from a policy change due to COVID. It was discussed that this was no longer a need and requested to have the banked vacation days paid out. Motion by Byron, with a second by Jay to approve to pay out the banked vacation days. Six (6) ayes, motion carried.

PARK MEADOW SUBDIVISION COMMITTEE: No report this month.

13. Motion by Dave to pay the bills, with a second by Byron. Six ayes (6), motion carried.
14. There were no other items of business this month.
15. Motion by Byron, with a second by Earl to adjourn at 5:41 PM. Six (6) ayes, motion carried.

Respectively Submitted,

Stacey Brock, Village Clerk