

March 4th, 2026

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

Others Present: Angie Catt (Oblong Chamber President), Dana Tylka, Resa Shaner (CCDA), Shannon Woodard (Stone & Waggoner), Terry Manhart (OPW Superintendent), Josh Kapper, Mike Kapper, Mark Kilburn, and Gary Lanter.

1. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM by the Mayor. Mayor T asked everyone to stand and say the Pledge of Allegiance.
2. Motion by Toad, with a second by Earl, to approve the Board Meeting Minutes of February 4th, 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, Oblong Chamber, stated The Village of Oblong will not be hosting an Easter egg hunt this year. The Chamber is planning to host some new events this year. One of them being to show a movie once a month at the mini park. Conxxus has teamed up with them to co-host these events. The first movie event is scheduled for May 16th which will also kick off our summer bash. There will be concessions for this event.

The Food Truck battle will be May 9th. This will be in conjunction with The Village of Oblong town wide garage sales. Angie requested permission to combine the Food Truck battles with the Ice Box Music Fest, which would mean closing off an extra block of South Range Street. Permission was granted.

The Oblong Chamber is still selling license plates to commemorate America’s 250. These will be for sale until the end of the month.

7. Shannon Woodard with Stone & Waggoner presented the Board with a grant opportunity. DCEO is accepting applications in July for public infrastructure improvement. There is 1.5 million per project available to fund 100% of construction. Approximately 20% the requested and funded amount will be paid out of pocket for start up costs. The monies are to be used to eliminate threats to health and safety. The Village of Oblong will also need to demonstrate project readiness and will need an EPA construction permit to move forward. Motion by Jay, with a second by Earl to proceed with the grant application. Six (6) ayes, motion carried.
8. Josh and Mike Kapper have recently purchased the building located at 101 W. Main St. Oblong. They plan to have some apartments upstairs with some kind of retail business on the main level. Josh asked the board what our community needs most. There were ideas such as a meat market and deli that some thought would be an added benefit to the community.

9. Ordinance No. 2026-O-672 was presented to the board for approval. An Ordinance amending the Village of Oblong Ordinance No. 2024-O-651, an Ordinance for the establishment of an Enterprise Zone in the Village of Oblong, Illinois, and amending the Intergovernmental Agreement to add Territory to the Robinson Crawford County Enterprise Zone. Motion by Dave, with a second by Byron to approve. Roll call as follows: Earl – aye, Justin – aye, Toad – aye, Byron – aye, Jay – aye, Dave – aye; motion carried.
10. The Illinois Department of Transportation submitted their compliance review covering the receipt and disbursement of Motor Fuel Tax Funds by the Village of Oblong for the period beginning January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025. This report was presented to the board.
11. Motor Fuel Tax Resolution 2026-R-1 was presented to the board for approval. Motion by Earl, with a second by Toad to approve. Roll call as follows: Justin – aye, Toad – aye, Byron – aye, Jay – aye, Dave – aye, Earl – aye; motion carried.

12. Mayor’s Comments

- The Oblong Municipal Building will be in use for voting Tuesday, March 17th for Oblong residents in Precincts 1 & 2. Oblong Precinct 3 residents will vote at the Forest Preserve.
- Republic Services Spring Clean Up will be held Tuesday, April 14th. This event is for paid up Republic Services customers inside the Village limits.
- B & H Appliance and Electronic recycling will be held at the Oblong Park on Saturday, April 25th from 9am – 11am.
- Pusey vs. Village of Oblong: No update.

Outstanding Grants & Updates

- Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO): \$50k reimbursement for Park Meadows Infrastructure – Haley (CCDA) is working on this.
- Congressman Mike Bost-Fy26 Community Project Funding OSLAD Grant: Have not received any official update, however I have reached out to Greater Wabash Regional Planning Commission to see if they can gain any info.
- Safe Routes to School Grant: Awaiting a May 2026 award notification. Max award \$250k.

CCDA Updates

- Energy Audit: We have turned everything in for the energy audit at the OPW Maintenance Building and are awaiting a quote back.

13. Reports of Committees:

POLICE: Chief Williamson was unable to attend but left a report, which Police Committee chair, Earl, read to the board stating that Taylor has completed his field training and is on his own patrolling the Village. Chief Williamson says he will assess any needs at the end of the week for moving forward. Taylor has been doing an outstanding job and we are happy to have him!

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 stated, in response to Josh Kapper's request for community needs, that a meat and deli place in town would be nice. Dave will set up a Finance Committee meeting to discuss a path forward.

TREASURER'S REPORT: No report this month.

CLERK'S REPORT: No report this month.

PARK MEADOW SUBDIVISION COMMITTEE: We did receive an email from Taylor Law stating what Lots could possibly be returning back to the Village, according to the covenants.

14. Motion by Jay, with a second by Toad to enter into Executive Session. Six (6) ayes, motion carried. Motion by Byron, with a second by Dave to come out of Executive Session. Six (6) ayes, motion carried.

Upon coming out of Executive Session, Mayor T read a letter received from Ladora Boyd on March 4th, 2026.

“Village Mayor & Board of Trustees, I have decided to retire due to physical and mental health issues. I am thankful for the 26+ years working for the Village. Sincerely, Ladora C. Boyd”

Motion by Earl, with a second by Toad to accept the retirement of Ladora. Roll call as follows: Toad – aye, Byron – aye, Jay – aye, Dave – aye, Earl – aye, Justin – aye; motion carried.

15. Motion by Jay to pay the bills, with a second by Toad. Six ayes (6), motion carried.
16. There were no other items of business this month.
17. Motion by Toad, with a second by Byron to adjourn at 5:45 PM. Six (6) ayes, motion carried.

Respectively Submitted,

Stacey Brock, Village Clerk