

April 1st, 2026

The Village of Oblong Board of Trustees met in regular session on Wednesday, April 1st, 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: Gary Lanter, Resa Shaner (CCDA), Angie Catt (Oblong Chamber President), Dana Tylka, Terry Manhart (OPW Superintendent), Colton Williamson (Chief of Police), Kevin Tracy, and Courtney Tracy.

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.

Motion by Byron, with a second by Earl, to approve the Board Meeting Minutes of March 4th, 2026. Six (6) ayes; motion carried.

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

The Mayor called for public comment and read the public comment rules. Kevin Tracy, 311 N. Garfield, stated he has lived at this residence for 34 years and has never had a sewer/plumbing problem. He started having problems eight months after Metro dug a hole across the sidewalk from his home. The Public Works crew did some digging and investigating to try to figure out the issue. Kevin discovered his line was tied in with his neighbor’s line. The main line on the north end was dry. Public Works said it was concreted off. They dug and got it cleaned out. The north side of his sewer looks to be knocked out. Kevin was told it is not the responsibility of the Village. He feels he shouldn’t have to fix a problem he didn’t create. He wants to know if he is liable for this issue. The Mayor stated the Water/Sewer Committee will schedule a meeting to discuss.

Terry stated there were two delinquent water customers who have been shut off. There is also a third who has set up a payment plan.

Angie Catt stated that the month of April is Child abuse prevention month. They are working with the Guardian Center to turn the town blue. Angie also reminded everyone that the Food Truck Battle along with the Ice Box Music Fest will be May 9th. Town wide garage sales will also be this day. The Chamber, along with Conxxus, is planning to have an event with a movie in the mini park every month in the summer. The first movie will be Zootopia II on May 16th. There will be concessions.

The Mayor received a child abuse prevention month proclamation from Christina Clark with the Guardian Center. She read and signed the proclamation proclaiming April as child abuse prevention month and calls upon all citizens, community agencies, religious organizations, medical facilities, and businesses to increase their participation in our efforts to prevent child abuse, thereby strengthening the community in which we live.

Ordinance No. 2026-O-674 an ordinance authorizing execution of release of reservation of possibility of reverter (Orville M. York and Patricia Diane York – Lot 27), was presented to the board for approval. Motion by Earl, with a second by Jay to approve. Roll call vote as follows: Jay – aye, Dave – aye, Earl – aye, Justin – aye, Toad – aye, Byron – aye; motion carried.

Ordinance No. 2026-O-675 an ordinance authorizing execution of release of reservation of possibility of reverter (The Lincoln real Estate Development Group LLC & Janet White – Lot 20), was presented to the

board for approval. Motion by Toad, with a second by Byron to approve. Roll call vote as follows: Dave – aye, Earl – aye, Justin – aye, Toad – aye, Byron – aye, Jay – aye; motion carried.

Ordinance No. 2026-O-676 an ordinance authorizing execution of release of reservation of possibility of reverter (Zander Laino and Nyah Laino – Lot 22), was presented to the board for approval. Motion by Dave, with a second by Jay to approve. Roll call vote as follows: Earl – aye, Justin – aye, Toad – aye, Byron – aye, Jay – aye, Dave – aye; motion carried.

Ordinance No. 2026-O-677 an ordinance amending chapter 31 of the revised code of ordinances of Oblong, Illinois prohibiting electric vehicle charging in the village park, was presented to the board for approval. Motion by Earl, with a second by Justin to approve. Roll call vote as follows: Justin – aye, Toad – aye, Byron – aye, Jay – aye, Dave – aye, Earl – aye; motion carried.

There have been complaints of residents leaving their trash totes by the side of the road all week. The board discussed adding “48 hours to remove trash totes from along roadways inside the village” to Oblong Village Code, Street Regulations, 33-2-9, Obstructing Street. Motion by Jay, with a second by Toad to approve. Six (6) ayes; motion carried.

Dave stated the annual budget, as a whole, is down \$227k. The main reason for this is taking the Park Meadows Subdivision loan off as a single liability and instead opting to make annual principal and interest payments. A line item of \$220k was added to the water budget to paint the water tower. It was discussed to use part of a water CD for a down payment on this project. The village plans to get the engineering portion of this project completed this year. Motion by Byron, with a second by Earl to approve the 2026-2027 budget. Six (6) ayes; motion carried.

Motion by Earl, with a second by Dave to enter into executive session. Six (6) ayes; motion carried.
Motion by Earl, with a second by Byron to come out of executive session. Six (6) ayes; motion carried.

Ordinance No. 2026-O-673 an ordinance setting and establishing the rates of payment for various employees of the Village of Oblong, Illinois for the fiscal year commencing on the 1st day of May, 2026, and ending on the 30th day of April, 2027, for the Village of Oblong, Illinois, was presented to the board for approval. Motion by Jay, with a second by Earl to approve. Roll call vote as follows: Toad – aye, Byron – aye, Jay – aye, Dave – aye, Earl – aye, Justin – aye; motion carried.

Mayors Comments:

Stone & Waggoner has finished the plat of survey of the unplatted area in Phase III along with Lot 7 in Phase I. This has been sent to Taylor Law to draw up an agreement for the purchase. Once the agreement has been reviewed and signed, Taylor Law will draw up a deed for recording.

Colton and I met with Steve Greene (WHA&G) in late January, 2026 to discuss enforcement options addressing inoperable vehicles and accumulation of junk, trash, and refuse within the village. We learned, following a legal process, we can then pay the cost to clean up the residence and place a lien on the property for all costs.

I would like to thank Oblong Public Works for installing the music equipment at the park. This equipment was paid for from a United Way Community Grant we received last fall. There have already been a lot of visitors to the addition.

I signed the County/Municipal Aggregate Program Agreement between Constellation New Energy Inc and the Village of Oblong on March 5th, 2026. This fixed rate of \$0.12691 per kWh will be locked in from May 2026 to May 2027. As always, this is an OPT OUT program. I have

learned, if you have solar panels, it would be beneficial to stay on Ameren rates. Now is a good reminder to all residents to never show any bill with your information on it to solicitors, and if you do sign up for anything, be sure to read all the fine print.

Ameren has drawn up a work order to set a new pole and transformer ban dedicated only to the municipal building. Currently, the building is connected with neighboring Floyd's Place and on occasion causes issues with our power. This will be done once the design center has the prints drawn up.

Republic Services Spring Clean Up will be held Tuesday, April 14. This event is for paid up Republic Services customers INSIDE the village limits. Please help get the word out and as a reminder, Republic will NOT pick up mattresses that are not wrapped.

I have a few names of people interested in mowing yards. If you or someone you know needs names and phone numbers, let me know.

B & H Appliance and Electronic recycling even will be held at the Oblong park on Saturday, April 25th from 9 AM to 11 AM.

Paws for Prevention updated for January – March 2026: 19 cats from Oblong have been taken to clinics for spay and neuter.

There are no updates on the Pusey vs. Village of Oblong case.

Congressman Mike Bost – FY26 Community Project Funding OSLAD Grant: We are awaiting a direct notification from HUD on the next steps and forms the village will need to complete for disbursement. These will be administrative forms the village will need to complete in order to initiate the Economic Development Initiative Community Project Funding Grant agreement. I have been in touch with Greater Wabash Regional Planning Commission asking for assistance when this notification arrives.

Safe Routes to School Grant: We are awaiting a May 2026 award notification. Max award amount is \$250k.

Don White Grant FRSB: We are awaiting award notification. This grant was submitted for play equipment in the special needs park.

Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO): Haley has begun preparing the required documentation to finalize.

Energy Audit for the OPW maintenance building: Resa stated she did get the quote from the energy audit which will be discussed at the next County finance committee meeting.

A Community Involvement Meeting will be held Tuesday, April 28th at 11:30 AM at the Forest Preserve. If planning to attend, RSVP Resa or Haley. This is open to everyone who is ready to help tackle the issues of our communities in the county.

Reports of Committees:

Police: No report

Building and Park: No report

Sidewalks and Lights: No report

Street and Alley: No report

Water and Sewer: No report

Finance: Dave, committee chair, stated the finance committee met to discuss Josh Kapper's request for community input on what to use his newly purchased building for. There was no definitive answer to the request.

There was also discussion about what the village can do about the ditch behind NAPA, Gage's, etc. The Street and Alley committee will get a meeting scheduled to discuss further.

Treasurer's report: Stacey presented the board with the finance report balances as of March 31st.

Clerk's report: Stacey handed out the upcoming fiscal year monthly board meeting dates. She will also get this list added to the Village of Oblong website.

Park Meadows Subdivision: Toad was approached about after dark lights at the subdivision. Per Ameren, if we stay within 75 feet of the transformers, there will be no cost to have these lights added.

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

There were no other items of business.

Motion by Toad, with a second by Jay to adjourn the meeting at 6:07 PM. Six (6) ayes; motion carried