

The Village of Oblong Board of Trustees met in regular session on Wednesday, May 6<sup>th</sup>, 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, and Trustee Byron Sanders. Trustee Justin Yager was absent.

**Others Present:** Gary Lanter, Haley Bricker (CCDA), Angie Catt (Oblong Chamber President), Terry Manhart (OPW Superintendent), Colton Williamson (Chief of Police), Jeff Vaughn (GWRPC), Patsy Foltz, and Gage Postlewait.

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 April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026. Five (5) ayes; motion carried.

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

There was no public comment.

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 they are ready for this weekend’s festivities which includes the Food Truck Battle and the Ice Box Fest. Gage Postlewait will also have his sidewalk chalk event. There will be a movie at the mini park on May 16<sup>th</sup>, Zootopia II. Casey Coffee Company has requested to park their truck on main street in front of The Vault on May 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>. June 20<sup>th</sup> is the date for Freedom Fest this year. There will be a band, fireworks, food, etc. Angie is requesting assistance from the Village for the fireworks expense. The Mayor stated we will look into the amount we assisted with last Freedom Fest.

Jeff Vaughn, grant administrator with Greater Wabash Regional Planning Commission, spoke about the requirements to apply for the CBG grant for a water project. The IEPA construction paperwork was submitted by Shannon Woodard late April. As a requirement, there must be documentation of a threat to health and safety. After the application packet is ready, we will need to have that information available to the public. The grant limit for this round is \$1.5M with no required match.

Patsy Foltz stated she has water from the ditch washing down her driveway and backing up into her yard. This is happening when there is a hard rain or it rains for an extended period. The street and alley committee will meet at Patsy’s residence to assess what is causing the issue and advise her on what can be done.

Ordinance No. 2026-O-679, an ordinance amending section 33-2-9 of the revised code of ordinances of Oblong, Illinois regarding removal of trash receptacles, was presented to the board for approval. Motion by Jay, with a second by Earl to approve. Roll call vote as follows: Dave – aye, Earl – aye, Toad – aye, Byron – aye, Jay – aye; motion carried.

Ordinance No. 2026-O-680, regulating public camping within corporate boundaries and other actions in connection therewith for the Village of Oblong, Illinois, was presented to the board for approval. Motion by Byron, with a second by Dave to approve. Roll call vote as follows: Earl – aye, Toad – aye, Byron – aye, Jay – aye, Dave – aye; motion carried.

Ordinance No. 2026-O-681, an ordinance authorizing the sale of real estate, was presented to the board for approval. Motion by Toad, with a second by Jay to approve. Roll call vote as follows: Toad – aye, Byron – aye, Jay – aye, Dave – aye, Earl – aye; motion carried.

Ordinance No. 2026-O-682, an ordinance authorizing execution of release of reservation of possibility of reverter (Orville M. York and Patricia Diane York – Lot 25), was presented to the board for approval. Motion by Toad, with a second by Byron to approve. Roll call vote as follows: Toad – aye, Byron – aye, Jay – aye, Dave – aye, Earl – aye; motion carried.

A revolving loan application from Amber Maus with The Hair Connection was submitted for discussion and approval. Loan request was for \$10,000. Motion by Toad, with a second by Jay to approve. Five (5) ayes, motion carried.

The finance committee recommended to change the TIF Grant guidelines. Dave presented to change the guidelines to, 75% funding of the project cost up to a max of \$5,000. Eligibility would be every two years with one application per owner. Motion by Earl, with a second by Byron to approve this change. Five (5) ayes, motion carried.

A TIF grant application from Gage Postlewait was submitted for discussion and approval. Dave stated, according to policy, we could not include labor reimbursement. Grant request was for \$6615. It was recommended to approve the grant for \$5185. Motion by Dave, with a second by Byron to approve a grant amount of \$5185. Five (5) ayes, motion carried.

Cary Bonnell was interviewed and recommended to the board to take the position of Village Treasurer. Dave stated this position is appointed and recommended to hire Cary. Motion by Jay, with a second by Earl to appoint Cary as Village Treasurer and Administrative Assistant. Five (5) ayes, motion carried.

Motion by Earl, with a second by Jay to start the advertisement process for a Village Clerk. Five (5) ayes, motion carried.

#### Mayors Comments:

Mayor T stated there is still some confusion over ditches inside the Village limits. Shannon Woodward with Stone & Waggoner was requested to stop by one of the ditches in question. It was his opinion that setting the precedence of participating in private drainage issues is not in the best interests of the Village. Mayor T asked for a consensus from the board to heed this precaution. The consensus of the board was to agree with the opinion of Mr. Woodard.

There is still no update in the Pusey vs. Village of Oblong case.

Congressman Mike Bost – FY26 Community Project Funding Grant: We are awaiting a direct notification from HUD on the next steps and forms the village will need to complete for disbursement of the \$2.1M package for S. Range Street. 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 announcement this month. Max award amount is \$250k.

Don White Grant FRSB: We did not get awarded funding this go around. The grant was submitted for play equipment in the special needs park.

54 Oblong Grant: We were graciously awarded a \$5,000 grant to go towards our water fountain project. The water fountain had quit working and needed replaced. We were also gifted \$5,000 from the Lake Foundation and Dave & Judy Dix gave \$2,000 in honor of Judy's Dad, John Collings. We are much appreciative!

Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity (DCEO): Everything has been turned in and finalized. Awaiting the award.

A Community Involvement Meeting was held Tuesday, April 28<sup>th</sup> at the Forest Preserve. Farnsworth Engineering held a presentation on the new Robinson Palestine Waste Water Treatment Plant which will begin construction this summer.

CCDA was awarded a \$2.1M grant through DCEO Capital Grant Program to purchase land for an industrial park. This property will not be owned by the County Board, nor the City of Robinson, but by CCDA. It will be used to enhance or bring businesses to Crawford County.

#### Reports of Committees:

Police: Chief Williamson stated for the month of April there were: 8 traffic/ordinance citations, 60 written warnings, and 9 verbal warnings issued; 4 arrests; 3 traffic accidents reported with 3 traffic accident reports completed; 96 calls for service, 1 assist call, 77 traffic stops conducted with a total amount of 174 calls for service.

Building and Park: No report

Sidewalks and Lights: No report

Street and Alley: No report

Water and Sewer: Jay, committee chair, recommended to bid the painting of the water tower this fall.

Finance: Dave, committee chair, stated there will be a finance committee meeting scheduled to discuss how we plan to fund the water tower painting project.

Dave also stated that the 54 Oblong Foundation is offering a one time grant opportunity for a max award of \$20,000 to be used for beautification or infrastructure. Application deadline is July 1<sup>st</sup>.

Treasurer's report: Stacey presented the board with the finance report balances as of April 30<sup>th</sup>. She recommended to allow the two CD's maturing in May to roll over into the current rate at FNBO. The board agreed.

Clerk's report: No report

Park Meadows Subdivision: Toad is still working on getting lights installed at the subdivision. Awaiting a response from Ameren.

Motion by Byron, with a second by Earl to pay the monthly bills. Five (5) ayes; motion carried.

There were no other items of business.

Motion by Toad, with a second by Dave to adjourn the meeting at 6:06 PM. Five (5) ayes; motion carried.

Respectively Submitted,

Stacey Brock, Village Clerk