

TOWN OF FERDINAND

REGULAR MEETING

February 20, 2024

The Ferdinand Town Council met for a Regular Meeting at 6:30 PM on Tuesday, February 20, 2024, in the Ferdinand Town Hall. Present were Council President, Ken Sicard; Vice-President, Debbie Johnson; Attorney, Sharon Bohnenkemper, and Clerk-Treasurer, Tamara Miller.

Also in attendance were Lauren Tretter, Scott Tretter and Dan Collignon.

John Hoppenjans, Fire Chief, reported the cost of eight new Scott SCBA Packs is \$86,920. There are no longer parts available for the packs the department currently uses. The department received a donation to apply to the cost leaving a balance of \$49,420 which would come out of the fire department's 2024 budget. The Council will consider the request to purchase and revisit it at the next meeting. John reported the Lucas Device, which the department received from a joint donation by the Dubois County Leadership Program, Dubois County Foundation, Dubois County Council and Dubois County Commissioners, is in service and is credited with a save on Saturday.

Todd Fischer, Electric Superintendent, requested hiring an intern for the electric department this summer to help educate high school students about career opportunities. Sicard stated that the intern position would have to be sanctioned by an educational institution. The Council is open to the request and would like a detailed job description. Fischer will gather more information for the Council.

Fischer requested the purchase of a hydro excavator for \$142,281 which would be split between the water, wastewater and electric departments. The current 2009 excavator would be sold outright. This item is more vital to the departments than the skid loader that was in the 2024 budget. The departments would like to purchase the hydro excavator instead of the skid loader in 2024. Five requests for quotes were sent, and one was returned. Debbie moved to approve the request. Ken seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

Ben Brinkman, Water/Wastewater Supervisor, reported the 5th Street from Georgia to 3rd Street water main cost for materials is approximately \$27,000. The main will be replaced prior to the street paving as part of the 2023-02 CCMG project. Ken moved to allow Ben to seek bids for the materials. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

Ken moved to allow Brinkman to seek bids for the water main replacement materials under

Northview Drive from 2115 Northview Drive to 18th Street. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

Debbie moved to approve Brinkman's request to send Ryan, Becher, Meyer, Hoffman, Steve Lechner, Kyle Lechner and Brinkman to the Alliance Spring Conference in French Lick March 13-15, 2024 for continuing education hours. Ken seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

Sicard reported Kerri Blessinger will serve another one-year term on the 911 Advisory Board and Margie Stallman will remain on the Plan Commission. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

Dan Collignon, President of the Economic Development Commission, reported that on January 22, 2024 the USDA Rural Development informed the EDC the Town would need a Redevelopment Commission to be able to qualify for programs offered by the USDA. Bohnenkemper stated there is an ordinance on the books for a five-member Redevelopment Commission. The five members are appointed and the Town Council can be on the Redevelopment Commission. The Council will do some research and revisit the request at the next or subsequent meeting.

Lueken reported Knies Construction plans to do the CCMG 2023-02 road construction projects (8th Street from Delaware to Alabama, Georgia Street from 5th to 6th and 3rd Street from Alabama to Georgia) in March 2024 and the CCMG 2023-01 & CCMG 2023-02 HMA overlay projects will be done in June/July 2024. Knies Construction requested Brinkman relocate one fire hydrant and Fischer relocate one pole.

Sicard reported he met with Mayor Elkins and Mayor Vonderheide regarding Local Safety Tax Initiative. IU business school students will gather preliminary data for the County to use in a presentation to the County Council and the County Commissioners. Sicard is working with Police Chief Blessinger and Fire Chief Hoppenjans to compile a 5-year spending plan. The goal is to have a decision in October 2024 so the tax can be implemented as of January 1, 2025.

Miller distributed the accounts receivable report to keep the Council informed. Miller reported the delinquent amounts from customers who have moved away to the State of Indiana TRECS system for possible collection.

Bohnenkemper reported Chief Blessinger and Chief Hoppenjans were given the draft of the Critical Incident Stress Management (CISM) report tonight for their review.

Debbie moved to approve the request for Brinkman to apply for a \$15,000 IFA grant to complete the water customer survey. Sicard seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

Lueken is working with Universal Design to finish the 2024 ADA Transition Plan.

Fischer is working with VIV on the new Ferdinand website which is under construction at this time.

Debbie moved to approve Miller's request to attend the ILMCT Training in Plainfield on March 17-21, 2024 at a cost of \$450, hotel room, travel and meals. Sicard seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

Lueken reported the Town clean-up dates are April 16th, 17th, & 18th.

Debbie reported the READI Grant criteria should be released this month. Lauren Tretter reported there is another READI Grant meeting in March. Debbie stated that Tara Damin with Grantsmith Consulting is available to help the Town with grant applications. Debbie requested permission to proceed with Damin to search for available grants. Sicard agreed to proceed. Debbie asked if the Town is moving forward with a comprehensive plan. The last plan was done in 2007. Sicard agreed to proceed with a request for quotes for a comprehensive plan. Bohnenkemper stated the plan commission is the unit that would initiate the request and they will meet on February 28.

Blessinger acknowledged it is Emergency Management Week and thanked Tammy Humbert and the Dubois County Emergency Management workers for their dedication. Police Chief Blessinger reported the Eclipse on April 8, 2024 will bring huge numbers of visitors to Ferdinand. She is working with Fire Chief Hoppenjans on the emergency safety plan. Residents should be prepared for traffic backups and limited or no cell phone service. The town-wide yard sale is April 4th, 5th and 6th. The YMCA is also having a fun run on April 6th. Hoppenjans requested increased pay for the firefighters who will be helping staff the Eclipse event because those firefighters will be taking off from their jobs. Ken moved to approve \$20 per hour pay for up to 8 firefighters per shift for 12-hour shifts for the Eclipse weekend. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

The Council denied the Heimatfest request to move their 5K Run to April 6, 2024. The YMCA plans to host a Fun Run at the 18th Street Park on April 6, 2024. The YMCA needs to provide information for their proposed Fun Run to the Town. The Council approved the Oasis request to use their sidewalk on the Eclipse weekend to sell their food leaving a 3-foot walkway open for walking traffic.

Miller stated that Town issued checks that are outstanding (24 months or more) shall be declared cancelled pursuant to IC Code 5-11-10.5, all checks outstanding and unpaid for a period of two years as of December 31 of each year shall be declared cancelled. Three checks totaling \$53.91 will be cancelled and deposited into the fund from which they were originally issued.

Miller stated Senior Citizens Center interior renovation is progressing. The street, electric and water/wastewater departments have all contributed to the renovation project. Lueken has contacted a contractor to install new windows at the SCC and requests for quotes have gone out for the interior painting.

Bohnenkemper provided Council with a copy of an Indemnification, Waiver and Release Agreement suitable for Progressive Investment Company to sign concerning an encroachment over a sewer main and Council authorized Bohnenkemper to provide to developer. The agreement was given to Scott Tretter at the meeting.

Ken moved to approve enlisting Indiana 15 for a Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Planning and Demonstration Grant Application. There is no fee for this application. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

Sicard stated that Chris James submitted his resignation and his last day will be February 22, 2024. James was the Town Manager for 10 years.

Debbie moved to pay regular claims. Sicard seconded. Motioned carried 2-0.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Town Council Meeting	Tuesday	March 26, 2024 at 6:30 PM
BZA	Wednesday	February 28, 2024 at 6:30 PM
Plan Commission	Wednesday	February 28, 2024 at 7:00 PM
Park Board	Wednesday	March 13, 2024 at 4:30 PM
Economic Development Comm.	Monday	April 22, 2024 at 6:00 PM

As there was no further business to discuss, Debbie moved to adjourn. Sicard seconded. Motion carried 2-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.

ATTEST:

FERDINAND TOWN COUNCIL

Tamara M Miller

Clerk-Treasurer

Ken Sicard

Ron Wj

Deba Jones

Ferdinand Est. 1905

Police Department

243 West 10th Street Ferdinand, Indiana 47532

Phone: 812-367-1806 / Fax: 812-998-2094

Chief of Police: Kerri Blessinger Assistant Chief: Christian Gogel



January 2024

This January we have begun preparing for the Eclipse events to be held in April. Several meetings have been held to discuss the needed resources for not only the day of the event, but also for the weekend prior as the Ferdinand town-wide yard sale is being held.

On January 11, 2024 I attended the SART (Sexual Assault Response Team) meeting held in Jasper. This group works together to ensure the best services and practices for victims of sexual assault.

On January 12, 2024 I spoke to the Forest Park High School criminal justice class. This is not only an informative discussion, but a great way to be seen to students thinking of entering the criminal justice field.

On January 24th, I attended the information meeting held by Jill Hahn regarding the Town. It was informative and was very well received by the community members.

On January 30-February 1st, I attended the Indiana Chief's Association training. This was an invaluable opportunity to network, learn, and have training on issues facing policing in 2024. I was also able to fulfill the state mandated training requirements on several topics.

The month of January was also very busy with end of the year employee reviews/discussions. This is an opportunity for each employee to meet with the Command Staff to discuss a variety of topics, discuss limitations and goals, and to give the officers an opportunity to discuss matters of concerns.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ferdinand Police Department

243 W 10th Street, Ferdinand Indiana 47532

Phone: 812-482-9150 / Fax: 812-998-2094

Chief of Police: Kerri Blessinger

Assistant Chief: Christian Gogel

Total Calls For Service		283	
		Calls For Service Report January 2024 	
Complaint Type	Total	Complaint Type	Total
Alarm		Missing Person Adult/Child	
Animal Complaint	1	Parking Violation	
Assist Other Agency	30	Property Lost/Found/Recovered	
Battery/ Assault		Protective/Restraining Order	
Burglary (attempted)		Prowler (report of)	1
Burning Complaint		Report to Station	3
Child Abuse/Neglect		Return Messages	11
Civil Matter /Dispute	1	State Dispatch	4
Citizen Assist	8	Scam	1
Debris in Roadway	3	Security Check	66
Disabled/Stranded Vehicle	10	Suicide/or a Suicidal Person	
Disturbance/Disorderly Person		Suspicious Person/Vehicle	3
Drug Complaint		Theft	3
Domestic Problem	5	Traffic Control	3
Escort	3	Traffic Warnings	36
Eviction	1	Traffic Tickets	2
Extra Patrol	51	Trespassing	
Fight		Threats/ Intimidation	
Finger Printing		Vandalism	
Fire	1	Vehicle Accident	10
General Information	5	Vehicle Accident Leaving the Scene	
Gun Permit		Vehicle Check	2
Harassment	1		
Hazardous/ Not Chemical		Warrant	1
Investigation		Weather Related Problems	
Identity Theft		Welfare Check	6
Illegal Dumping		911 false calls	3
Intoxicated Person / Driver	3	Pursuit	
Juvenile Incurrigible/Runaway			
Lines/ Poles Down			
Lost/ Stolen License Plate			
Mental Subject			



FERDINAND FIRE DEPT.

221 E. Fourth St. P.O. Box 31
Ferdinand, IN 47532

2024 Summary of Incidents

	FIRE	EMR		TOTAL
JANUARY	3	11		14
FEBRUARY				
MARCH				
APRIL				
MAY				
JUNE				
JULY				
AUGUST				
SEPTEMBER				
OCTOBER				
NOVEMBER				
DECEMBER				

We received a quote for replacing 8 of our air packs from Hoosier Fire.

We did receive our LUCAS device and had training on it and it is on the truck in service. Huge thanks to the Leadership Academy and everyone that donated to this!!!! All 12 departments in the county will have one.

Electric Department Report

Feb. 20, 2024

- No unplanned outages
- Pole change outs east side of main street area
- Tree trimming for line clearance approx. 50% complete



Town of Ferdinand
2065 Main Street
FERDINAND, IN 47532-0007
Phone 812-367-2280
Fax 812-367-1303
E-mail: twnofferdinand@psci.net
www.ferdinandindiana.org

Town Council Meeting

February 20, 2024

We added a stone shoulder on Vienna Dr. between 20th and 21 street.

We also did some shoulder work along west 3rd and along the bypass road.

Did some street sweeping

We jet vacuum out catch basins throughout Town.

Planted 30 trees at 18th, 5th street park and Town Lake.

Plan on redoing the parking lot striping at Town Hall and police station.

We now have all our snow and ice equipment tested and should be ready to go.

Got caught up hauling and clearing out the limb and yard waste at our drop off site.

We got started cleaning and servicing our seasonal equipment.

The senior center roof now has been replaced.

Still waiting on some drawings to complete our ADA plan.

Visit us for a day. Join us for a lifetime.

KENNETH SICARD, President
TAMARA M. MILLER, Clerk-Treasurer

DEBBIE JOHNSON, Member
SHARON BOHNENKEMPER, Attorney

RONALD WEYER, Member
CHRIS JAMES, Town Manager



Town of Ferdinand
2065 Main Street
PO Box 7
FERDINAND, IN 47532-0007
Phone 812-367-2280
Fax 812-367-1303
townofferdinand@psci.net

Water:

MRO's filed with IDEM

2 Service Leaks

1 Friday January 26th after hours 4 men 5 hours 622 E 22nd St

Pics attached of broken saddle

1 February 14 work hours 2 men 2 hours 1730 Vienna Drive

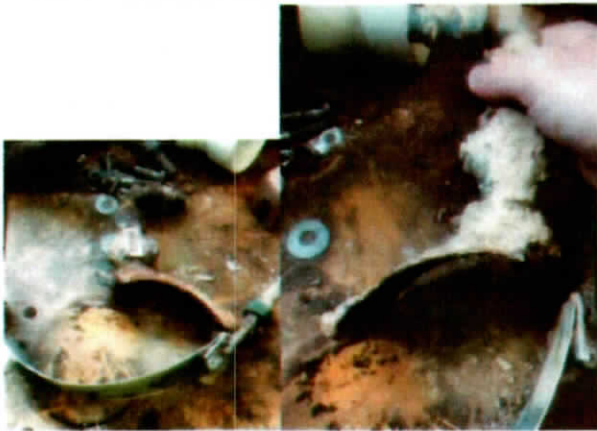
January usage:

Total Gallons	6,880,000.00
Max. Day	295,000.00
Min. Day	162,000.00
Avg. Daily	221935.4839

Estimated cost for Northview Drive is from 18th and Main Street to 2115 Northview Drive 1,800 feet of pipe serving 26 residents in the Renu Weyer subdivision and helps supplying water to Krampe, Voegerl and Whippoorwill Heights Subdivision.

The main reason for this improvement is because of the time frame and age of the pipe and its fittings with the upcoming pavement replacement request. Attached are pictures from the leak in January, these are the issue pieces we have occurring in this section of town. These replacement bands for these leaks are a total cost for the band and fittings is \$1,500, not including labor, overtime road patches and equipment. Which in total could make the cost per service up to \$5,850 per service or \$157,000 per this section of pipe and not replace the main just services.

I am seeking permission to seek quotes for the project starting in mid- April to be finished before the end of fall.



Also, there has been a development with the Georgia street intersection widening that we will need to move some services and hydrant, while we are in this area and the amount of work we will have to do because of mains and services not being deep enough as well as exploratory digging to find and ensure that an old main is no longer in use and disconnected that we relay that main and connect 5th street to 3rd street on Georgia. We have the majority of the material on hand from previous jobs, it would be 700 feet of main replacement for 8 current customers estimated at \$27,000 in needed to purchase supplies.

I am asking permission to seek bids. For this project starting as soon as supplies come in, for the project starts on construction March 1st.

Wastewater:

Monthly IDEM reports are submitted

Solids discharged 2.2 mg/l per day average

Phosphorus levels of .6 mg/l out of a limit of 1 mg/l average

MONTHLY REMOVAL SUMMARY					Total Monthly Flow: (million gallons) 15.719
Percent Removal	BOD5	S.S.	Ammonia	Phosphorus	
Primary Treatment	NA	NA			Percent Capacity (actual flow/design 70%)
Secondary Treatment	NA	NA			
Tertiary Treatment	NA	NA			
Overall Treatment	99.1	98.2	99.7	82.3	
Phosphorus limit would be 75 % removal. (compliance achieved)					

All reports have been filled with IDEM

Moving along into the financial side of the Asset management plan for SRF and IFA

KENNETH SICARD, President
TAMARA MILLER, Clerk-Treasurer

DEBBIE JOHNSON, Member
SHARON BOHNENKEMPER, Attorney

RONALD WEYER, Member
CHRIS JAMES, Town Manager

Education:

Send Clint Meyer, Austin Ryan, Kyle Lechner, Steve Lechner, Brian Hoffman, Steve Becher and Ben Brinkman to Alliance Spring Conference at French Lick March 12-15. Cost is \$1,530 for all 7.

Brian is in his last week of CDL training at the Dubois County Fair Grounds and will be back Friday February 23rd.

Ben Brinkman
Water/Wastewater Superintendent

KENNETH SICARD, President
TAMARA MILLER, Clerk-Treasurer

DEBBIE JOHNSON, Member
SHARON BOHNENKEMPER, Attorney

RONALD WEYER, Member
CHRIS JAMES, Town Manager



PARKS DEPARTMENT TOWN COUNCIL REPORT

February 2024

General Park Report

- The park board met on February 7, 2024.
- The park board held their annual major lease discussions with the various league presidents and leaders. We discussed with the leagues the requirements for Lease Forms, Certificates of insurance requirements, and Schedules. We also discussed any specific facility needs or wants and will look to accommodate as best we can. The park is working on putting together a tourney schedule for all of the weekend tourneys that have been requested. The board discussed
- The park board unanimously voted to approve the commencement of a feasibility study to better develop a conceptual location and system type plan, expense budgeting, and needs analysis for a future splash pad in the parks system. The study will be conducted by a leading aquatics consultant—Counsilman-Hunsaker (St. Louis, MO)—and will begin later this spring with the report results being provided later this year. Results will allow the board to determine scope and size of a future project, cost, system type, and next steps to fundraise and budget. This study phase is in the budget for 2024.
- Sharon Bohnenkemper was present to discuss the upcoming April 8th “Total Eclipse in the Park” event at 18th Street Park.

Matthew Weyer
February 16, 2024



Town of Ferdinand
2065 Main Street
FERDINAND, IN 47532-0007
Phone 812-367-2280
Fax 812-367-1303
E-mail: twnofferdinand@psci.net
www.ferdinandindiana.org

TOWN MANAGER TALKING POINTS FOR FEBRUARY 20, 2024 COUNCIL MEETING

1 – Preparations for the 2024 Ferdinand Folk Festival are continuing to move ahead. Dozens of donation request letters have been sent out and we have received numerous replies/checks in the past few weeks. Efforts to finalize the Main Stage musical line-up are progressing, as we do have a line on our headline act, but nothing official at this time. The group is working to have the line-up announcement in the next 6-8 weeks. Our next committee meeting is coming up this Thursday evening as we continue fine-tuning our overall process. Just a reminder the 14th annual Folk Fest is Saturday September 21!!

2 – We are just over one month away from the application deadline for the 2024 Dubois County Leadership Academy. A handful of applications and recommendation letters have already been received and I expect that number to increase in volume in the coming weeks. I have been in direct communication with another potential candidate and am hopeful to receive that paperwork in the coming days. The opening session for the DCLA is Thursday April 4 in the Ferdinand Branch Library. Anyone interested in participating is welcome to contact me by email at cjames@ferdinandindiana.org or calling my cell phone at 812-639-9581.

I am very much looking forward to seeing what our 2024 teams come up with regarding their Capstone Projects, as 2023 saw our most ambitious effort yet, with the acquisition of LUCAS Devices for each of the county's 12 fire departments. This means 1st Responders will have

Visit us for a day. Join us for a lifetime.

KENNETH SICARD, President
TAMARA M. MILLER, Clerk-Treasurer

DEBBIE JOHNSON, Member
SHARON BOHNENKEMPER, Attorney

RONALD WEYER, Member
CHRIS JAMES, Town Manager

another tool with which to work in potential life-saving situations- without having to await the arrival of an ambulance & EMT's.

3 – On a related note, I have submitted to Ken our annual funding request for the Leadership Academy. Please note the amount has increased from \$1000 to \$1250. This year marks the first time the municipal buy-in has been updated and reflects an overall increase in materials, awards and other related costs. It is my wish council will approve this request.

Visit us for a day. Join us for a lifetime.

KENNETH SICARD, President
TAMARA M. MILLER, Clerk-Treasurer

DEBBIE JOHNSON, Member
SHARON BOHINENKEMPER, Attorney

RONALD WEYER, Member
CHRIS JAMES, Town Manager



Town of Ferdinand
2065 Main Street
FERDINAND, IN 47532-0007
Phone 812-367-2280
Fax 812-367-1303
E-mail: twnofferdinand@psci.net
www.ferdinandindiana.org

KIM FISCHER MARKETING AND PROMOTIONS REPORT FOR FEBRUARY MEETING

Working on the Ferdinand Annual Merchants Meeting - [August 21](#)

Working closely with our Main Street Program as Liaison.

Continue to work with our website team

Eclipse (Town & County)

Spring Banners designs

Ribbon Cutting for Whipped Bakery- February 13

New design for billboards

Working with Ferdinand Merchants

Elected to the Visit Dubois County Board of Directors

Met with our larger venues hosting town wide yard sales and getting out their information.

Social Media Posts

Meeting with Visit Dubois County Jessica Lindauer regarding film for website.

Visit us for a day. Join us for a lifetime.

KENNETH SICARD, President
TAMARA M. MILLER, Clerk-Treasurer

DEBBIE JOHNSON, Member
SHARON BOHNENKEMPER, Attorney

RONALD WEYER, Member
CHRIS JAMES, Town Manager