

TOWN OF FERDINAND

REGULAR MEETING

April 23, 2024

The Ferdinand Town Council met for a Regular Meeting at 6:30 PM on Tuesday, April 23, 2024, in the Ferdinand Town Hall. Present were Council President, Ken Sicard; Vice-President, Debbie Johnson; Council Member, Ron Weyer; Attorney, Sharon Bohnenkemper, and Clerk-Treasurer, Tamara Miller.

Debbie moved to approve the Minutes of the March 26, 2024 Council Meeting. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Police Chief Kerri Blessinger recapped the Eclipse Event on April 8, 2024. There were no incidents to report. Blessinger wrote a letter to the Editor of the Ferdinand News thanking Ferdinand residents for following instructions during the eclipse. She stated the 18<sup>th</sup> Street Park has had some vandalism and patrols are being increased in the park.

Sharon Bohnenkemper reported for Todd Fischer, Electric Superintendent. Debbie moved to ratify Mitch Konerding's attendance at the final workshop in Scottsburg for IMEA and associated costs. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0. Ron moved to approve Todd Fischer attending the virtual training "working with electric utility contracts for non-lawyers" for \$1,295 on July 18 & 19, 2024. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Tom Lueken reported that on Thursday, April 15, 2024 the asphalt surface was placed in the Hidden Meadows subdivision and Kerstiens subcontracted Calcar to install the pavement markers and place the signage. The Town will furnish the signage and Kerstiens will reimburse the Town for the signage cost.

Miller stated the Town does not offer recycling as part of the trash pick-up. Recycling is available at the Dubois County facility at 9781 S Ferdinand Road NW, Monday and Thursday 10 AM - 6 PM and Saturday 8 AM - 4 PM. All curbside trash should be in a bag with a trash sticker attached.

Ben Brinkman, Water/Wastewater Superintendent, stated the non-potable pumps are not meeting the specs needed, and the corrections are being planned by the supplier. They can use the water to clean the clarifier and fill the sprinkler tank, but cannot use it to clean the bar screen.

Ben Brinkman, Water/Wastewater Superintendent, requested permission to send Brinkman,

Becher, Hoffman, Meyer, Kyle Lechner, Ryan, and Steve Lechner to the Alliance of Indiana Rural Water Operator Expo at Huntingburg on May 16, 2024 for \$875 plus transportation. Debbie moved to approve the request. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Lueken reported Amelia Schipp was the IN DNR 2024 Arbor Day Poster Contest winner and was awarded a small Shumard Oak tree which will be planted in the 18<sup>th</sup> Street Park near the playground.

Bohnenkemper reported the structure of the Ferdinand Redevelopment Commission is being evaluated and she is waiting on AIM to provide information on how other communities have set up their Redevelopment Commissions.

Ruger Kerstiens joined the meeting via cell phone. He explained KFAM will be constructing two townhome structures, one with 10 units and one with 12 units. KFAM is requesting a four-year abatement: year 1 at 100%, year 2 at 75%, year 3 at 50%, and year 4 at 25%. He explained without the abatement, the rental rate required would be higher than the market could sustain. Bohnenkemper stated the Statement of Benefits is in order and recommended the resolution be signed and a notice be published in the paper for a Public Hearing at 7 PM on May 21, 2024. Debbie moved to adopt Resolution No. TA 2024-01, A Resolution Designating an Economic Revitalization Area with the Town of Ferdinand and set the public hearing as requested. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Lueken reported the CCMG 2023-01 road paving is nearing completion. The CCMG 2024-1 award to the Town was \$201,102.50. Ron moved to adopt Resolution 2024-04, a Resolution authorizing Ken Sicard, Town Council President, to sign the INDOT LPA Contracts and CCMG Agreements. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Sicard reported nothing new regarding the Local Safety Tax Initiative.

At 7:30 PM the bids for the Vac Trailer were opened. There was one bid from Vermeer Midwest for \$20,000. The bid was taken under advisement and within three days Brinkman will advise Council of the decision to accept or decline the bid.

Miller distributed the accounts receivable report to keep the Council informed. Miller reported approximately \$6,500 has been submitted for collection through the State of Indiana TRECS system. \$751 has been collected to date.

Brinkman stated that the water customer survey with WTH is going well.

Sicard distributed a copy of the IOT Cyber Executive Summary to the Council members and the attorney along with a template for a Master Information Security Policy and Procedure. The

Council will review the IOT recommendations.

Debbie was notified by Ed Cole and ROI that the READI project criteria was announced and the call for applications closes on May 17, 2024. The Town is reviewing a possible project to submit. Bohnenkemper has reviewed the contract with Tara Damin with Grant Smith Consulting, LLC. Sicard moved to approve the contract and allow Debbie to sign the contract with Grant Smith Consulting, LLC for \$50 per hour. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Bohnenkemper stated the Plan Commission sent out a request for proposals for a Ferdinand Comprehensive Plan and proposals are due May 22, 2024.

The Council thanked Bohnenkemper for leading the Eclipse event and all of the Town employees for their work. All of the department heads worked together resulting in a safe, fun eclipse event that was well attended. It was estimated that 4,000 visitors came to Ferdinand on April 8, 2024.

Bohnenkemper reviewed the MasterBrand Compliance with Statement of Benefits Personal Property CF-1. She stated the form was in substantial compliance with their application and recommended the form be approved and the President and Clerk-Treasurer be authorized to sign the compliance form. Debbie moved to approve and sign the annual Compliance Form. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

EV Charger Hold Harmless Agreement has not been received.

Bohnenkemper reported the Dubois County Leadership Academy has nine participants and the next session is April 24, 2024. Bohnenkemper believes the 2025 class size could double by promoting the program.

Miller provided the 2025 Budget Timeline Dates:

2025 Budget Meeting with Department Heads – Tuesday, July 30, 6 AM  
2025 Budget Hearing - Tuesday, August 20, 7 PM  
2025 Budget Adoption - Thursday, September 17, 7 PM

Debbie requested permission to form the health insurance committee. Ron moved to approve the request. Ken seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Bohnenkemper requested to advertise for a public hearing for Ordinance 2024-04, An Ordinance Amending Section 10.02.080 Regarding Wholesale for Resale Water Rates and Section 10.33.055 Regarding Electric Reconnection Charges to be held on May 21, 2024 at 7:15 PM. The proposed Ordinance will be distributed to the Council and addressed at the April 24, 2024 Special Council meeting.

Mark Durcholz addressed the Council. He stated his concern for speeding in the area of 8<sup>th</sup>

and Michigan and asked if a speed bump could be installed to slow traffic. He stated traffic does not stop to allow walkers to cross the street during the school morning hours and he thinks a speed bump would slow traffic. Chief Blessinger does not think a speed bump is a good option. She will address his concern with the principal to discuss options. The Council encouraged Durcholz to also contact the principal with his concerns. The safety of the school children is the main concern for the Town and parents.

Ron moved to pay regular claims. Debbie seconded. Motioned carried 3-0.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**



Town Council Special Meeting	Wednesday	April 24, 2024 at 1:30 PM
Town Council Meeting	Tuesday	May 21, 2024 at 6:30 PM
BZA	Wednesday	April 24, 2024 at 6:30 PM-Cancelled
Plan Commission	Wednesday	April 24, 2024 at 7:00 PM
Park Board	Wednesday	May 8, 2024 at 4:30 PM
Economic Development Comm.	Monday	July 22, 2024 at 6:00 PM

As there was no further business to discuss, Debbie moved to adjourn. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:06 PM.

ATTEST:

FERDINAND TOWN COUNCIL

  
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Clerk-Treasurer

  
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**Ferdinand** Est. 1905

# **Police Department**

243 West 10<sup>th</sup> Street Ferdinand, Indiana 47532

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

*Chief of Police: Kerri Blessinger Assistant Chief: Christian Gogel*



The month of March has been filled with preparation for the Eclipse. The following is a list of completed tasks:

1. Attended several meetings with EMA and other groups.
2. Confirmed operation of the Ferdinand repeater (VHF backup)
3. Had battery back-up of Ferdinand repeater completed with Electric Department
4. Gathered all Town radios from other departments and confirmed operation.
5. Ordered antennas and batteries to make radios operational.
6. Reviewed programming of all radios
7. Completed in-depth safety plans for Town of Ferdinand
8. Ensured that UTV's were available for use
9. Purchased all equipment needed
10. Updated all safety plans and equipment lists for future emergency use
11. Obtained Narcan for St. Henry and St. Anthony Volunteer Fire Depts.
12. Purchased all needed traffic control devices

I also met with Chief John Hoppenjans several times to discuss potential problems and solutions should emergencies arise.

On 03-07-24 the Ferdinand Police Department assisted with the kids walk. This is an excellent way to have positive interaction with our school children and for them to see us in a different light.

On 03-14-24 I attended the Mitigation Meeting for Dubois County. This meeting focuses on needed information for future safety and grant planning.

*Ferdinand* Est. 1905

*Police Department*

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On 03-20-24, Ferdinand Police Officers attended firearms training. This training requires all officers to pass a qualification course and to experience shooting in low light situations.

During the course of the month, I assisted with getting the Employee Assistance Program up and running for the Town of Ferdinand employees. I also worked with Jasper Memorial Hospital to have debriefing sessions made available. The EAP is a counseling service provided to any town employee should they need it. The counseling is anonymous and provides employees the opportunity to keep mentally fit. I also went to the Ferdinand Fire Department to discuss the program and explain its use. This was a great step for our town.

As many of you know, Ferdinand suffered the loss of a child on 03-09-24. These occurrences, as well as other daily life experiences, have profound impacts on our employees. It is imperative to take care of our mental health.

This month we also had several issues with vandalism to our Park Restrooms. Several locations are now equipped with cameras. We would ask that anyone who see anything suspicious at our parks to contact 911.

Respectfully submitted,

Chief Kerri Blessinger

# 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		Calls For Service Report March 2024	
	<b>362</b>		
Complaint Type	Total	Complaint Type	Total
Alarm		Missing Person Adult/Child	<b>1</b>
Animal Complaint	<b>6</b>	Parking Violation	<b>1</b>
Assist Other Agency	<b>14</b>	Property Lost/Found/Recovered	
Battery/ Assault		Protective/Restraining Order	
Burglary (attempted)		Prowler (report of)	
Burning Complaint		Report to Station	<b>6</b>
Child Abuse/Neglect		Return Messages	<b>30</b>
Civil Matter /Dispute		State Dispatch	
Citizen Assist	<b>1</b>	Scam	<b>3</b>
Debris in Roadway		Security Check	<b>96</b>
Disabled/Stranded Vehicle	<b>5</b>	Suicide/or a Suicidal Person	
Disturbance/Disorderly Person		Suspicious Person/Vehicle	<b>1</b>
Drug Complaint		Theft	
Domestic Problem		Traffic Control	
Escort	<b>3</b>	Traffic Warnings	<b>45</b>
Eviction		Traffic Tickets	<b>4</b>
Extra Patrol	<b>86</b>	Trespassing	
Fight		Threats/ Intimidation	<b>2</b>
Finger Printing		Vandalism	<b>1</b>
Fire	<b>1</b>	Vehicle Accident	<b>7</b>
General Information	<b>13</b>	Vehicle Accident Leaving the Scene	
Gun Permit		Vehicle Check	<b>5</b>
Harassment			
Hazardous/ Not Chemical		Warrant	
Investigation	<b>1</b>	Weather Related Problems	
Identity Theft		Welfare Check	<b>7</b>
Illegal Dumping		911 false calls	<b>4</b>
Intoxicated Person	<b>1</b>	Pursuit	
Juvenile Incurrigible/Runaway	<b>1</b>		
Lines/ Poles Down			
Lost/ Stolen License Plate	<b>1</b>		
Mental Subject	<b>1</b>		



# FERDINAND FIRE DEPT.

221 E. Fourth St. P.O. Box 31

Ferdinand, IN 47532

## 2024 Summary of Incidents

	<b>FIRE</b>	<b>EMR</b>		<b>TOTAL</b>
<b>JANUARY</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>11</b>		<b>14</b>
<b>FEBRUARY</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>17</b>		<b>24</b>
<b>MARCH</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>14</b>		<b>17</b>
<b>APRIL</b>				
<b>MAY</b>				
<b>JUNE</b>				
<b>JULY</b>				
<b>AUGUST</b>				
<b>SEPTEMBER</b>				
<b>OCTOBER</b>				
<b>NOVEMBER</b>				
<b>DECEMBER</b>				

**Ladder truck 405 and all ground ladders were tested and passed annual inspection.**

**We purchased and trained on our grain bin rescue tube.**

**We conducted our annual department driving course.**

**We also did our road side clean up along St Rd 264.**



## Electric Department Report

April 23, 2024

- 4 unplanned outages
  - Partial of north side of town
  - Michigan st area storm
- Pole change outs south side and west of main
- Mitch attended final workshop for IMEA training in Scottsburg and will take the top out exam in April.
- Permission to attend virtual training “working with electric utility contracts for non-lawyers” costing \$1295 two day course covering purchase power agreements, utility policy and protocol, and legal concepts.
- Smart meter collector installed meter install and integration into our billing system will start next week
- Street light request at intersection of 3<sup>rd</sup> and Industrial Park Rd



Town of Ferdinand  
2065 Main Street  
Ferdinand, IN 47532-0007  
Phone 812-367-2280  
Fax 812-367-1303  
E-mail: [twnofferdinand@psci.net](mailto:twnofferdinand@psci.net)  
[www.ferdinandindiana.org](http://www.ferdinandindiana.org)

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## Town Council Meeting

April 23, 2024

We received the remaining road salt needed to purchase to fulfill our 2023 Contract.

The paving is under way for CCMG 2023-01 Contract. CCMG 2023-02 will hopefully be completed within a few weeks. The construction part is nearly complete then paving will begin.

As stated last meeting, we started mowing in right of ways and retention ponds along with weed control.

This also is the time of year we spend more time with hauling of limbs and yard waste due to storms and mowing season.

Asphalt is now available for patching. We can begin with potholes and utility cuts.

We completed the Town's Spring Clean-up. We are going to do some tweaking to the pickup guidelines.

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

DEBBIE JOHNSON, Member  
SHARON BOHNENKEMPER, Attorney

RONALD WEYER, Member



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

**Water:**

MRO's filed with IDEM

1 Service Leaks

1 April 17, 2024 during normal hours 4 men 9 hours

Ross Heights, new line pulled under road way removing old line

March usage:

Total Gallons	7,198,000.00
Max. Day	354,000.00
Min. Day	175,000.00
Avg. Daily	232193.5484

Starting on Georgia street main April 24th

**Wastewater:**

Monthly IDEM reports are submitted

Solids discharged 3.2 mg/l per day average

Phosphorus levels of .7 mg/l out of a limit of 1 mg/l average

MONTHLY REMOVAL SUMMARY					Total Monthly Flow: (million gallons)
Percent Removal	BOD5	S.S.	Ammonia	Phosphorus	8.113
Primary Treatment	NA	NA			Percent Capacity (actual flow/desig 37%)
Secondary Treatment	NA	NA			
Tertiary Treatment	NA	NA			
Overall Treatment	99.2	98.5	99.9	88.0	
Phosphorus limit would be 1 mg/l. (compliance achieved)					

All reports have been filed with IDEM

KENNETH SICARD, President

DEBBIE JOHNSON, Vice President

RONALD WEYER, Member

TAMARA MILLER, Clerk-Treasurer

SHARON BOHNENKEMPER, Attorney

**Education:**

Permission to send

Kyle Lechner

Steve Lechner

Austin Ryan

Steve Becher

Clint Meyer

Brian Hoffman

Ben Brinkman

To Rural Water Alliance of Indiana Spring Expo at Huntingburg City Park May 16<sup>th</sup>

Cost is \$875 plus transportation.

. Other:

Steve Lechner has put in his retirement date for Thursday May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024

*Benjamin J Brinkman*

Ben Brinkman

Water/Wastewater Superintendent



## PARKS DEPARTMENT TOWN COUNCIL REPORT

*April 2024*

### **General Park Report**

- The park board met on April 10, 2024.
- The board voted to add a town splash pad to the 5-year Park Master Plan which will allow the park to pursue grant opportunities related to a future project.
- The town hosted the April 8<sup>th</sup> “Total Eclipse in the Park” event at 18<sup>th</sup> Street Park.
- Fifth Grader Amelia Schipp (daughter of Megan and Scott Schipp) was the IN DNR 2024 Arbor Day Poster Contest Winner. The annual Arbor Day poster contest was sponsored by the Indiana DNR Division of Forestry’s Community and Urban Forestry program (CUF) and Indiana Project Learning Tree. The theme for this year was “Oak Trees - Superheroes of the Forest. As part of the prize, Amelia was awarded a small Shumard Oak tree which she elected to plant in our 18th Street Park near the playground. The IN DNR came down to present her award and educated everyone the correct method for selecting a location and planting a native species tree. We look forward to seeing the tree grow into a mighty oak in the years to come, congratulate Amelia, and thank her for selecting the town park to plant the tree.

Matthew Weyer  
April 20, 2024



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Ferdinand, IN 47532-0007  
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Working with (VIV) on our website - trying to finalize set up - we do have a meeting on the books for [Wednesday, April 24th](#) at 1:30pm

Eclipse Events - Finalizing with pics and gathering all information reporting to Sara Schroeder head of the Dubois County Eclipse and gathering mementos for display at Dubois County Museum.

Main Street Program - Liaison between the town and this new program - will be the head of their PR - Finalized Logo - and set up Facebook page. Setting up on Non for profit status ( this takes 6 months for approval) will continue to meet with groups monthly.

Working on Summer banners as well as meeting with Heimatfest committee on banners for their event.

New billboards are designed to replace the Eclipse billboards. Those should be ready to go up!

Continue to work with Ferdinand Merchants monthly and also on the committee to plan the Ferdinand Annual Banquet. Have sent out the save the dates for this event and posted on social media.

Meetings with Visit Dubois County as part of their board of directors -reported about the success of our eclipse event.

Also working with them to get free video (Brescher Photography) of the Town of Ferdinand to use for promotions and website.

Reached out to our community members for quotes about why the Town of Ferdinand is a great place to live and included quotes from some visitors as well.

Reached out to Sic Fit - Homestead Pizza (new owners) and Frick Concrete - they are all on board but coming up with dates that will work for them.

Social media posts

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

DEBBIE JOHNSON, Member  
SHARON BOHNENKEMPER, Attorney

RONALD WEYER, Member