

## TOWN OF FERDINAND

### REGULAR MEETING

October 22, 2024

The Ferdinand Town Council met for a Regular Meeting at 6:30 PM on Tuesday, October 22, 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. Forest Park students, Halie Jochem and Aleigha Hawkins were also in attendance.

Debbie moved to approve the Minutes of the September 16, 2024, Town Council Meeting, Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Kerri Blessinger, Police Chief, stated she would be resigning from her position on November 18, 2024, and she thanked the Council and the community for the opportunity to serve as Police Chief for her hometown. She has accepted a position with Deaconess (Memorial Hospital Health Care Center) in Jasper. The Council thanked Chief Blessinger for her service. Sicard stated that Christian Gogel, Assistant Police Chief, retired from the police force effective October 9, 2024. Sicard moved to appoint Rob Randle as Police Chief effective November 19, 2024. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0. The Council congratulated Randle and his family in attendance, his wife Sylvia, and his son, Alex.

Ron moved to adopt Ordinance 2024-15, An Ordinance Amending Ordinance No. 2023-26 Regarding Salaries, Compensation and Wages for Elected Officials, Appointees and Employees of the Town of Ferdinand. The ordinance promotes Rob Randle to the position of Police Chief; salaried position; \$67,410.00 annually; \$1,296.35 per week; based on 168 hours per work period, to commence November 19, 2024. This amendment is effective with the pay period that will begin November 15, 2024, at the meeting it was introduced. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Debbie moved to adopt Ordinance 2024-16, An Ordinance amending Ordinance No. 04-05, The Drug and Alcohol Substance Abuse Policy of the Town of Ferdinand, Indiana, to Designate a DER and Appropriately Amend the 2024 Salary Ordinance. The Town's substance abuse program requires the appointment of a DER (designated employer representative) that is authorized to receive training and then monitor, facilitate, and answer questions pertaining to the program. Appointed was Mike Tobin with an adjustment to the salary ordinance for 2024 to provide an increase of the hourly wage by 0.35 cents commencing with the pay period beginning November 1, 2024, at the meeting it

was introduced. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Ron moved to adopt Resolution 2024-07, a Resolution awarding Retiring Assistant Police Chief Christian Gogel his Service Weapon after 30 years of faithful service in law enforcement and most recently five years of service to Ferdinand. The Council authorizes the retirement of Glock Model Gen 4, .40 caliber, Serial No. BEKV297 from the Ferdinand Police Department supply and authorizes the award of that service weapon to Assistant Police Chief Christian Gogel on or after October 9, 2024, to thank him for his service. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

John Hoppenjans, Fire Chief, stated Tyler Trent completed his classes and he reported the new air compressor was received. Hoppenjans plans to donate the old air compressor to another fire department that could use it.

Brinkman stated that 226 customers have not responded out of 1050 water survey requests. The town has one year to finish the documentation of the 226 unknown lines. Brinkman is drafting a letter to be sent to the 226 customers stating a response is mandated by the State. Ryan Oeding will be attending the CDL class for \$4,550 at the 4H Fairgrounds. We are applying for a grant to cover the cost of the class. Debbie moved to approve Brinkman's request for four employees to attend the AWWA Conference for approximately \$990, meals and transportation, on December 3-4, in French Lick. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Matt Weyer, Park Board President, stated the Indiana Park and Rec Show will be in French Lick on November 6, 2024 and he, Mike Steffe, Jill Schipp, and Tom Lueken request permission to attend. Debbie moved to approve the request. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0. There will be a Weed Wrangle on Saturday, November 9 at the Old Town Lake.

At 7:00 PM, quotes were opened for the police car. Sternberg Chrysler quote for a 2025 Durango for \$42,399 plus equipment with (3) Vehicle Trade-In Values of \$3,500; \$3,500 and \$4,000. Equipment was \$12,700. Lease options were also given but only the payment amounts were given. John Jones 2025 Dodge Durango \$59,119 which includes the upfit and (3) Trades for a total of \$16,000, net purchase of \$43,119. The Chief will take the quotes under advisement. Ron moved to allow the Chief to make a decision and move forward with the purchase. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

The Taurus will be on the November agenda.

Lueken stated CCMG 2024-01 road work will begin in the Spring of 2025. CCMG 2024-02 applications have been submitted.

Sicard stated he is continuing to work on the Local Safety Tax Initiative.

Miller distributed the accounts receivable report to keep the Council informed.

The Town's READI 2.0 Grant was submitted on Friday, September 13, 2024.

Sicard stated the Redevelopment Commission held a meeting on October 22, 2024.

Johnson stated the comprehensive plan steering committee will hold a public meeting with TSW on November 6, 2024, at 6-8 pm at the Ferdinand Community Center. The public is encouraged to attend and share their ideas for the future development of the Town for the next 10-20 years.

EV Charger Hold Harmless Agreement has not been returned.

MVH Ton Truck – Lueken stated the truck should be delivered in November.

Bohnenkemper will report on the Title VI Plan at the November 19, 2024 meeting.

Miller stated she received a PO for police radios for \$61,663.20. The remaining ARPA balance of approximately \$48,473.37 is obligated to fund a portion of the police Motorola radios purchase. Debbie moved to approve the ARPA scheduled expenditures per the Clerk-Treasurer's summary. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

At 7:15 PM the quotes for water tower maintenance were opened. Pittsburg Tank & Tower Group, Henderson KY, submitted a quote for the 400,000 Gallon Elevated Tank - \$113,770 Exterior Renovation; \$170,580 Interior Wet Renovation; \$23,120 Mixer; \$3,770 Vent; \$5,700 Riser Manway; \$11,800 Exterior Safety Climb System. The maintenance for Chapel Hill 500 MG Tank was \$186,980 for Interior Renovation with a combined quote of \$515,720. McGuire Water, Rockport, IN submitted a quote. Chapel Hill 500 MG Tank interior maintenance is \$56,750 for two years for a total of \$113,500. The 400,000 Gallon Elevated Tank quote was \$87,380 for four years for a total of \$349,520. Ron moved to take the quotes under advisement and for Brinkman to report back at the November 19th Town Council meeting. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

At 7:30 PM Robert Reynolds, with LWG, who prepared the electric rate study joined the meeting by telephone for the introduction of the Electric Rate Ordinance Reynolds prepared the electric rate study for the Town. The current electric provider contract will expire in June 2026 and the purchased power electric cost could potentially result in an increase of customer rates of 25%-30%. In anticipation of this increase, many communities are raising rates to lessen the impact of the upcoming purchased power increases. Reynolds explained the proposed 8% electric increase would result in about a \$6.55 increase per month for a 750 KW user. The rates will still be lower than most in the area. Sicard explained the Town is researching options with other purchased power providers. Reynolds recommended reviewing the rates annually. If the proposed electric rate ordinance is adopted at the November 19, 2024, Council meeting, the rate would take effect December 10, 2024,

and be reflected on the January 25, 2025 bill which is due February 10, 2025. The Electric Rate Ordinance 2024-17, An Ordinance amending Chapter 10.33 of the Ferdinand Municipal Code Regarding Electric Rates and Charges was introduced. Ron moved to hold a public hearing at 7:00 PM on November 19, 2024. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0. The Ordinance will appear in the Ferdinand News, posted, and mailed to individuals outside of the corporate limits.

Debbie moved to adopt Resolution 2024-08, An Appropriation Reduction Resolution of the 2024 Park Fund Capital Improvements appropriation for \$20,000. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Ron moved to allow a landscaping contribution totaling \$1,896.89 to the contractor of the Vienna Drive culvert project for work done to improve the property disturbed by the project for reclamation of their property. \$1,096.89 will be paid by the Town and \$800 will be paid by the water department. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Sicard moved to sponsor the Ferdinand Community Christmas that will be held December 2, 2024 at the Ferdinand Community Center (FCC) from 5:30 PM – 8:00 PM. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0. Debbie thanked the FCC and the Iota Lambda Chapter of the Psi Iota Xi for their contributions to the event. The dance team, the elementary school choirs and the CCI choir will all perform.

The Council thanked Officer Brian Seffernick for 25 years of service; he started with the Town on September 4, 1999.

Ron moved to approve the USI Consultants, Inc. On-Call Professional Services Agreement. Ben would be approved to send notice to proceed to the drone service, not to exceed \$2,000. The drone service would help detect water leaks. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Debbie moved to allow Bohnenkemper to begin the procurement process to hire a grant administrator and an engineer for the Safe Streets for All (SS4A) Planning Grant. The bids will be opened on December 10, 2024, at 7:00 PM. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Ron moved to adopt Resolution 2024-09, A Resolution authorizing Kenneth Sicard to be the sole signer on the USDOT SS4A Planning Grant Agreement and related documents. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

The Halloween Trick or Treating hours are 5 PM - 7 PM EST on Thursday, October 31, 2024.

Ron moved to approve the agreement with Universal Design Associates for \$16,500 for a preliminary engineering report for a sidewalk from the high school baseball field to the Old Town

Lake sidewalk. The preliminary report is needed to apply for a trail grant. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Debbie moved to adopt Ordinance 2024-18, an Ordinance Amending and Replacing Ordinance 2023-01, which is an Ordinance Authorizing and Regulating the Operation of Recreational Off-Highway Vehicles on the Streets and Alleys Under the Jurisdiction of the Town of Ferdinand, at the meeting it was introduced. Effective January 1, 2025, the fee will be \$30 for a 3-year permit. Ron seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Brinkman reminded residents that Northview Drive has loose gravel and to drive slowly.

Lauren Mundy reported the Walktober event was well attended.

Sicard stated he attended the AIM Idea Conference and will pass along the information he acquired.

Chief Blessinger reminded residents to obey the parking rules along Main Street.

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

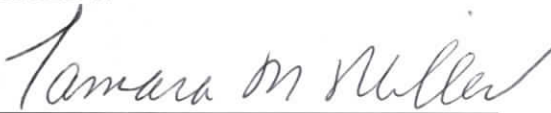
**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

|                                       |           |                                       |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|---------------------------------------|
| Redevelopment Commission              | Tuesday   | November 19, 2024 at 5:30 PM          |
| Town Council Meeting                  | Tuesday   | November 19, 2024 at 6:30 PM          |
| BZA                                   | Wednesday | October 23, 2024 at 6:30 PM Cancelled |
| Plan Commission                       | Wednesday | October 23, 2024 at 7:00 PM Cancelled |
| Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee | Wednesday | November 6, 2024 at 6:00 PM FCC       |
| Park Board                            | Wednesday | November 13, 2024 at 4:30 PM          |
| Economic Development Commission       | Monday    | October 28, 2024 at 6:00 PM           |

As there was no further business to discuss, Ron moved to adjourn. Debbie seconded. Motion carried 3-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:12 PM.

ATTEST:

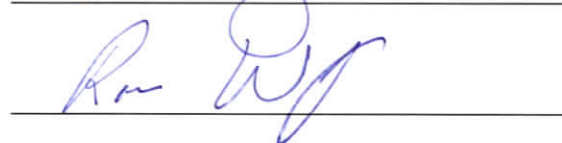
FERDINAND TOWN COUNCIL

  
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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 September brought the finalization of budget items for 2025 as well as a variety of on-going projects.

On September 3<sup>rd</sup>, Officers participated in Defensive Tactics training. This training not only teaches tactics but also discusses use of force issues. As the year comes to a close, Officers will be on schedule to meet the yearly State issued training requirements.

The Ferdinand Folk Festival was held on September 21<sup>st</sup>. The festival was well attended and thankfully there were no issues to report. It appears that 4,905 vehicles came and left our community on the north side alone.

We have been working on and successfully obtained an additional FLOCK camera. The camera will be installed in the next few months after the proper permits are obtained from INDOT. These cameras have been invaluable for crime apprehensions but also for utilizing them for grant information for the Town of Ferdinand.

The Ferdinand Police Department has also recently purchased new hand-held radios. These were in desperate need of replacement. There are several factors that make radio transmissions difficult in town. Overall, these radios not only have the 800-megahertz capability but have cellular ability as well. This will ensure that the officers can hear and be heard with Dubois County Dispatch as well as other area departments. They are expected to arrive in a few months.

As of October 9, 2024, Assistant Chief Christian Gogel has retired from the Ferdinand Police Department. He has diligently served the community for 30 years. We wish him well in his future endeavors. He will be very missed.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kerri Blessinger, Chief of Police


# 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<br>September 2024  |       |
|-------------------------------|-------|--|-------|
| 286                           |       |  |       |
|                               |       |  |       |
|                               |       |  |       |
| Complaint Type                | Total | Complaint Type   | Total |
| Alarm                         | 2     | Missing Person Adult/Child   |       |
| Animal Complaint              |       | Parking Violation  |       |
| Assist Other Agency           | 11    | Property Lost/Found/Recovered  |       |
| Battery/ Assault              |       | Protective/Restraining Order   |       |
| Burglary (attempted)          |       | Prowler (report of)  |       |
| Burning Complaint             |       | Report to Station  | 2     |
| Child Abuse/Neglect           |       | Return Messages  | 21    |
| Civil Matter /Dispute         | 1     | State Dispatch   | 10    |
| Citizen Assist                | 1     | Scam   |       |
| Debris in Roadway             | 3     | Security Check   | 61    |
| Disabled/Stranded Vehicle     | 4     | Suicide/or a Suicidal Person   |       |
| Disturbance/Disorderly Person | 4     | Suspicious Person/Vehicle  | 12    |
| Drug Complaint                |       | Theft  | 3     |
| Domestic Problem              | 3     | Traffic Control  |       |
| Escort                        | 4     | Traffic Warnings   | 11    |
| Eviction                      |       | Traffic Tickets  | 4     |
| Extra Patrol                  | 80    | Trespassing  | 1     |
| Fight                         |       | Threats/ Intimidation  |       |
| Finger Printing               |       | Vandalism  |       |
| Fire                          | 1     | Vehicle Accident   | 5     |
| General Information           | 12    | Vehicle Accident Leaving the Scene   |       |
| Gun Permit                    |       | Vehicle Check  | 3     |
| Harassment                    |       | Warrant  |       |
| Hazardous/ Not Chemical       |       | Weather Related Problems   |       |
| Investigation                 | 5     | Welfare Check  | 10    |
| Identity Theft                |       | 911 false calls  | 6     |
| Illegal Dumping               |       | Pursuit  |       |
| Intoxicated Person            | 2     |  |       |
| Juvenile Incurrigible/Runaway | 1     |  |       |
| Lines/ Poles Down             |       |  |       |
| Lost/ Stolen License Plate    | 1     |  |       |
| Mental Subject                |       |  |       |



## **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>6</b>    | <b>7</b>   |  | <b>13</b>    |
| <b>MAY</b>       | <b>4</b>    | <b>9</b>   |  | <b>13</b>    |
| <b>JUNE</b>      | <b>4</b>    | <b>12</b>  |  | <b>16</b>    |
| <b>JULY</b>      | <b>8</b>    | <b>13</b>  |  | <b>21</b>    |
| <b>AUGUST</b>    | <b>3</b>    | <b>15</b>  |  | <b>18</b>    |
| <b>SEPTEMBER</b> | <b>6</b>    | <b>7</b>   |  | <b>13</b>    |
| <b>OCTOBER</b>   |             |            |  |              |
| <b>NOVEMBER</b>  |             |            |  |              |
| <b>DECEMBER</b>  |             |            |  |              |

**Tyler Trent has completed his Firefighter 2 classes and state skills.**

**We did our annual road cleanup along 264.**

**Tanker 403 had work done on the dump valves.**

**We received and got installed our new breathing air compressor and new 6000 psi fill bottles.**





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[www.ferdinandindiana.org](http://www.ferdinandindiana.org)

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## **Electric Department Report**

Oct. 22, 2024

- One unplanned outage
  - 1 customer 30 min. tree limb on line
- Pole change outs west of Main St
  - 4 kv conversion prep on west side of Main St
- Colin and Todd attended IMEA business meeting at Bloomington
  - Round table discussion about utility fees and costs
  - FEMA preparedness for utilities before the storm
  - Update on legislation at state and federal level affecting public power

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

DEBBIE JOHNSON, Member  
SHARON BOHNENKEMPER, Attorney

RONALD WEYER, Member



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## Town Council Meeting

October 22, 2024

### Department Reports:

Added storm pipe on both sides of the road culvert and reshaped a section of the ditch flow line and bank on the south side of Industrial Park Rd. and Ridgeway Ct. The pipe extension was needed to stabilize the slope next to the roadway and prevent undermining of the road.

We basically did the same process at the intersection of Scenic Hills Dr. and Industrial Park Rd. This extension was needed to provide a wider shoulder for trucks leaving and entering Scenic Hills Dr. it also allowed us to move our stop sign off the roadway further by doing this the sign is better protected from damage and also makes a better line of sight when vehicles are coming from the west.

Working on a drainage issue together with several home owners in Whippoorwill sub division installing pipe but we are now at a standstill hopefully we can started again real soon. The water department determined the service tap saddles were bad they replaced a couple of them and need to replace two more before we can go ahead.

Sloped the west bank back coming off east 5<sup>th</sup> Street on Georgia and widen the road a little to the west. We are going to put some pavement on the approach this is being done to keep most the stone off 5<sup>th</sup> Street this was area dug for a water main replacement.

We removed two dead trees at the Old Town Lake one was hanging over the trail which caused a safety issue and the other would have damage the wooden bridge over the water.

We completed our fall Town Wide clean up. It went fairly well about average amount of trash. Just refused two pickups due lack of stickers.

We scrubbed the exterior walls, ceilings and over hangs at the Town Hall. We also put new reflectors and repainted the curb at the drive entrance making it a lot more visible and painted the parking lot directional arrows.

We cleaned the moss off the north side of the vinyl fencing at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Street EMS building. We aerated, fertilized and over seeded the Towns vacant lot at 4<sup>th</sup> and Maryland.

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

DEBBIE JOHNSON, Member  
SHARON BOHNENKEMPER, Attorney

RONALD WEYER, Member



Town of Ferdinand  
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**Water:**

MROs filed with IDEM

Northview Drive-

All main pipe is in place

Main is connected to 18<sup>th</sup> Street,

Adding valves for hydrants, as well as connections for 20<sup>th</sup> street and 21<sup>st</sup> street

Lead Service Line (LSL) is submitted,

226 unknown residential side

2 lead lines residential side

3 galvanized lines residential side

| Monthly Water Treatment |              |
|-------------------------|--------------|
| Total Gallons           | 7,445,000.00 |
| Max. Day                | 334,000.00   |
| Min. Day                | 181,000.00   |
| Avg. Daily              | 248166.6667  |

KENNETH SICARD, President

DEBBIE JOHNSON, Vice President

RONALD WEYER, Member

TAMARA MILLER, Clerk-Treasurer

SHARON BOHNENKEMPER, Attorney

**Wastewater:**

Monthly IDEM reports are submitted

Solids discharged 2.1 mg/l per day average

Phosphorus levels of .9 mg/l out of a limit of 1 mg/l average

| MONTHLY REMOVAL SUMMARY                                 |      |      |         |            | Total Monthly Flow:<br>(million gallons) 9.019 |
|---|------|------|---------|------------|--|
| Percent Removal   | BOD5 | S.S. | Ammonia | Phosphorus |  |
| Primary Treatment                                       | NA   | NA   |         |            |  |
| Secondary Treatment                                     | NA   | NA   |         |            | Percent Capacity                               |
| Tertiary Treatment                                      | NA   | NA   |         |            | (actual flow/design) 42%                       |
| Overall Treatment                                       | 99.6 | 99.2 | 99.9    | 89.6       |  |
| Phosphorus limit would be 1 mg/l. (compliance achieved) |      |      |         |            |  |

All reports have been filled with IDEM

Education

Send Ryan Oeding to CDL course starting November 25<sup>th</sup> thru December 19<sup>th</sup>

Send 4 team Members to AWWA Winter Conference French Lick December 3 – 5  
Total \$990 plus travel and meals

*Benjamin J Brinkman*

Ben Brinkman  
Water/Wastewater Superintendent

KENNETH SICARD, President

DEBBIE JOHNSON, Vice President

RONALD WEYER, Member

TAMARA MILLER, Clerk-Treasurer

SHARON BOHNENKEMPER, Attorney



**PARKS DEPARTMENT  
TOWN COUNCIL REPORT**

*October 2024*

**General Park Report**

- The park board met on October 9, 2024.
- The board approved to repair the dugouts on the small baseball field. Work will commence over the winter and will be ready for the season as well as make some infield dirt work to mitigate flooding issues during the spring rains.
- The Park Board and the Dubois County Soil & Water Conservation District will host another Weed Wrangle on Saturday, November 9<sup>th</sup> at the Old Town Lake. Last year, there was a great number of Ferdinand residents of all ages that participated for over 3-hours and made great strides in removing invasive plant species throughout the property. We hope to have as great a turnout as last year.
- The board is looking into making a number of repairs to some broken playground equipment over the next few months.

Matthew Weyer  
October 17, 2024



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## October 22, 2024 Town Council Meeting Kim Fischer - Marketing

VIV – Finalizing the website – Working with employees and town council on changes and updates to the website. Hoping to go live SOON.

Main Street Program - Liaison between the town and this program – Public Relation Meetings & Department meetings development of website- agendas as well as event planning for Oktoberfest and Ferdinand Community Christmas.

Radio and WJTS interviews for Walktoberfest

Walktoberfest was a huge success not only for Framing Ferdinand, but also our merchants who could not stop expressing their gratitude for all the business generated. Had several stories from those who visited from out of town. Merchants were glad to have new customer experiences.

Billboards are up for Christkindlmarkt.

Continue to work with Ferdinand Merchants monthly- planning – Debrief for Walktoberfest as well as working on Holiday Open House & Christkindlmarkt

Working with Merchants on Annual Community Banquet – follow up meeting “event debrief” on planning and prepping for next year.

Meetings with Visit Dubois County as part of their board of directors -  
Voting on Tourism grants ~ Rubric scoring - due back to board by Oct 22nd

Spoke with Todd Fischer regarding Christmas banners on behalf of merchants. They would like to have décor up by Nov 2<sup>nd</sup> Open House in Ferdinand.

Visit Dubois County is working on placar AI so that each town in Dubois County can utilize.

Excited to work with the Ferdinand Community Christmas, advertising as well as working the event.

Working with Christkindlmarkt on promoting – working their new ice skating rink.

Social media & Instagram Posts – Newspaper & Radio

KENNETH SICARD, President  
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