

TOWN OF FORT BRANCH, INDIANA
ORDINANCE NO. 2023-4

AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING TAMPERING WITH THE WATER SYSTEM

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF FORT BRANCH, INDIANA,
AS FOLLOWS:

PURPOSE: The purpose of this Ordinance is to prohibit the tampering with the water system.

DEFINITIONS:

For the purpose of this chapter, the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning.

JUMPER: Any device or system used or intended to supply water from the Town water supply to any structure, person or entity without said water being processed by a Proper Metering Device.

PROPER METERING DEVICES: Equipment owned by the Town to measure the water passing through or out of the Town water supply.

TAMPERING WITH WATER SYSTEM: To turn any portion of the Town water system on or off or otherwise change or damage it.

TOWN WATER SUPPLY: The water in any part of the Town water system.

TOWN WATER SYSTEM: All pipes, lines, joints, tanks, hydrants, wells, water treatment plant and all related parts used to supply public water to users.

TOWN: The Town of Fort Branch, Gibson County, Indiana.

ADMINISTRATION: The Town Council of the Town of Fort Branch, Indiana, shall be the executive department of the Town responsible for the administration of this Ordinance.

ARTICLE 1: It shall be unlawful for any person, other than employees of the water utility of the Town while acting within the scope of their employment or any other person or persons specifically authorized by the water utility, to block any water meter from being read, to open a meter pit lid, enter a meter pit or in any manner, tamper with a water meter, or attempt to heat a meter pit or meter.

ARTICLE II: The Clerk Treasurer or Town Marshall shall inform any individual in violation of this Ordinance by written notice. The individual shall have forty-eight (48) hours to correct the Ordinance violation.

ARTICLE III:

Any person who violates this Ordinance shall be fined not less than \$100 or more than \$2,500. A separate offense shall be committed for each day of the violation.

(57)

\$100 fine if water is turned off
\$2400 fine if lock is removed

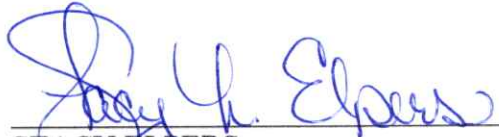
- a) Injunction. In addition to the penalty provided by Article III above, the Town shall be entitled to an injunction, enjoining any further violation of this Ordinance.
- b) Attorney Fees: Any person found by a Court to have violated this Ordinance shall pay all costs and reasonable attorneys' fees incurred by the Town as a result of the Town's enforcement of this Ordinance.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Council of the Town of Fort Branch, Indiana, this 21st

Day of June, 2023.

ATTEST:

TOWN COUNCIL OF FORT BRANCH, INDIANA



STACY ELPERS,
CLERK TREASURER



SANDRA BIRCH, COUNCIL PRESIDENT



SCOTTY DELONG, COUNCIL MEMBER



ROBERT REINHART, COUNCIL MEMBER

