

TOWN OF SCHERERVILLE

SCHERERVILLE, INDIANA

BOARD OF SAFETY MEETING

April 6, 2023

The Board of Safety Meeting was called to order by Chairman David Eenigenburg at 6:30 p.m., in the Schererville Police Department Meeting and Training Facility, 25 E. Joliet Street, Schererville, IN.

Attendance was taken with the following Board Members present: David Eenigenburg, Rich Pietrzak, Mike O'Rourke, George Kouros, and Eric Graf. Staff members present: Police Chief Peter Sormaz, Fire Chief Robert Patterson, Deputy Fire Chief David Meyer, and Recording Secretary Stephanie Bottiger. Also present: Attorney Alfredo Estrada, Schererville Town Council President Thomas Schmitt, Town Manager Jim Gorman, and Director of Operations Andy Hansen. Absent: Deputy Chief of Police Steven McNamara.

THEREUPON, Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Kouros made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 2, 2023 Public Meeting, seconded by Mr. O'Rourke. Motion carries (5 – 0).

THEREUPON, Correspondence

ITEM A. PD – Thank-you letter from Highland Police Chief Ralph Potesta

Chief Sormaz advised the Board he had received a letter of appreciation from the Highland Police Chief, Ralph Potesta, for their assistance during a major incident that occurred in the Highland Grove Shopping Center on February 17, 2023.

ITEM B. PD – Thank-you letter from the Gomez Family

Chief Sormaz notified the Board the he had also received a letter of accommodation from the Gomez Family for Officer. Spizewski. Officer. Spizewski was working in the Foxwood Subdivision on the evening of March 10, 2023 and discovered an open garage door. He was able to contact the owners and secure the door.

ITEM C. FD – Thank-you letter and Gift Card from the Mileusnic Family

Chief Patterson made the Board aware that he had received a thank-you letter and a \$15.00 gift card for Dunkin' Donuts from the Mileusnic Family for care received from the ambulance crew that transported a family member.

ITEM D. FD – Thank-you from Wolf Den # 504

Chief Patterson also advised the Board he had received a thank-you letter from Wolf Den #504 for a presentation he did for the kids.

ITEM E. FD – Thank-you letter and donation from Helen Latia

Chief Patterson informed the Board he received a \$25.00 donation and thank-you letter from Helen Latia who was having problems with her CO detector, which he assisted in changing for her.

THEREUPON, Old Business

ITEM A. PD – Reserve Program Update

Chief Sormaz recommended the Board appoint three of the candidates, contingent upon their completion of the forty hour pre-basic, state mandated training course, to the Reserve Program. The names of the three candidates are Bradley Gibson, Dan Gin, and William Joseph Port. Motion made by Mr. Pietrzak, seconded by Mr. Graf. Motion passes (5 – 0).

ITEM B. PD – New Hire Process Update

Chief Sormaz advised the Board the next step in the New Hire Process would be the written examination scheduled for the week of April 11, 2023, which will be conducted on line by the Department's contracted company, Stanard and Associates. He further apprised the Board that nineteen candidates showed up for the physical fitness test and all nineteen passed.

ITEM C. FD – NONE

THEREUPON, New Business

ITEM A. FD – Approval from the Board for Resolution 2023-1

Chief Patterson requested approval from the Board to move forward with Resolution 2023-1 to send to the Schererville Town Council. The resolution was a change that was made to their light duty policy, which Attorney Estrada drafted for them. Motion made by Mr. O'Rourke, seconded by Mr. Kouros. Motion passes (5 – 0).

ITEM B. PD – In Car Video/Audio Recording System Policy

Chief Sormaz advised the Board that the In Car Video/Audio Policy had not been updated since 2016. Since that time, all of the squad cars have been equipped with three cameras, located in the front and back of the squads as well as an internal camera for the passenger. He made the Board aware that Attorney Estrada did review the new policy. Motion made by Mr. Pietrzak, seconded by Mr. O'Rourke. Motion passes (5 – 0).

ITEM C. PD – Appointment of Officer Scott Savich to the Detective Bureau

Chief Sormaz informed the Board that Officer Scott Savich was appointed to the Detective Bureau to fill an opening. At this time Chief Sormaz had Officer Savich come to the front to receive his Detective Shield.

THEREUPON, Reports

ITEM A. Police Chief

Chief Sormaz informed the Board that in addition to the information provided in the packet, the FOP President, Detective Scott Savich, and Officer Jordan Knight applied for and received a Community Renovation Grant from The Home Depot in the amount of \$9,025.00. This money is being used to renovate the Detective Bureau. The work performed in the Detective Bureau is being handled voluntarily by numerous officers at the Department. Chief Sormaz expressed his gratitude to all those that have helped.

For the month of February, 2023 the Patrol division responded to 1,482 incidents and took 68 accident reports. They performed 793 traffic stops resulting in 453 citations issued of which 103 were local ordinances and 350 were state infractions. There were 158 total arrests. The Patrol Division filed 150 charges of which 60 were Class A Misdemeanors, 35 were Class B Misdemeanors, 38 were Class C Misdemeanors, 1 Level 5 Felony, and 16 Level 6 Felonies. The Patrol Division served 89 total warrants and had 209 Proactive Patrols.

For the month of March, 2023, the Patrol Division Reports were unavailable.

For the month of March, 2023, the Criminal Investigations Division filed 42 criminal charges, of which 24 were felony, 18 were misdemeanor, 5 were filed in Schererville Town Court, 34 were filed in Lake County Court, and 3 were filed in the Lake County Juvenile Court. The breakdown of the 45 cases being investigated by the Criminal Investigations Division for March: 16 Miscellaneous, 12 Theft/Shoplifting, 7 Fraud, 0 Drug, 4 Sex Offenses, 1 Auto Theft, 5 Burglary/Home Invasions, and 0 Battery/Domestic.

For the month of March, 2023, Schererville Police Officers attended 404 hours of training.

The Animal Control Division reports were unavailable at the time of the meeting.

ITEM B. Fire Chief

Chief Patterson advised the Board the reports were in the packet.

For the month of March, 2023, the Schererville Fire Department performed 18 inspections, responded to 350 incidents of which 294 were EMS related, 29 Fire related, 25 were Alarms/Investigations, and 2 were Fire Prevention, Inspections and or trainings. They also attended 885.45 hours of training.

ITEM C. Attorney NONE

THEREUPON, Board Members NONE

THEREUPON, Business from the Floor NONE

THEREUPON, Adjournment

There being no further business, Mr. Kouros made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. O'Rourke. Motion carries (5 – 0). The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

DAVID
SCHERERVILLE
SAFETY
A TRUE COPY

EENIGENBURG
BOARD OF
CHAIRMAN

RICHARD PIETRZAK
SCHERERVILLE BOARD OF
SAFETY VICE CHAIRMAN
A TRUE COPY