

January 4, 2024

The Board of Safety Meeting was called to order by Eric Graf at 6:30 p.m., in the Schererville Police department Meeting and Training Facility, 2 E. Joliet Street, Schererville, IN.

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

THEREUPON, Amendment of the Agenda

Mr. Graf requested from the Board members present a motion to amend the Agenda and move the Board Elections to after roll call. Motion made by Mr. Jaroszewski, seconded by Mr. Veitkus. Motion carries (4 – 0).

THEREUPON, Board Election

Motion made by Mr. Jaroszewski to nominate Mr. Graff as Chairman for the Board of Safety 2024 year, Mr. Kouros as the Vice Chairman for the Board of Safety 2024 year, and Mr. Veitkus as the secretary for the Board of Safety 2024 year. Seconded by Mr. Veitkus. Motion carries (4 – 0).

THEREUPON, Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Kouros made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2023 Public Meeting, seconded by Mr. Veitkus. Motion carries (4 – 0).

THEREUPON, Correspondence

ITEM A. PD – None

ITEM B. FD – None

THEREUPON, Old Business

ITEM A. PD – Emergency Hire Process Update

Chief Sormaz reminded the Board that at the November 2, 2023 meeting, permission was given for the Police Department to move forward with an Emergency Hire Process for certified Indiana Police Officers. He went on to add that the process was initiated November 17, 2023 with a flyer and advertisements with the closing date to apply being December 18, 2023. Chief Sormaz informed the Board the entire process was completed this week with the interviews and he has a list of recommendations for the conditional offer of employment.

ITEM C. FD – NONE

THEREUPON, New Business

ITEM A. FD – Approval to hire three part-time employees

Chief Patterson requested approval from the Board to hire three part-time employees:

- Colin Turner – Firefighter/EMT
- Jeremy Dennis – Firefighter/EMT
- Zachery Merritt – Paramedic

Attorney Estrada made a point of order at this time, stating their needed to be correction to the agenda. He stated that Colin Turner is an EMT, not a Paramedic as listed on the agenda. Motion made by Mr. Kouros, seconded by Mr. Veitkus. Motion carries (4 – 0).

ITEM B. PD – Conditional offer – Emergency Hire

Chief Sormaz recommended the Board extend the conditional offer of employment to the top three applicants he will name and that, in the event one of the applicants decline the offer, he be authorized to move on to the fourth next applicant. Applicants named: John Hannon, Keith Hickok, and Ashlee Tancos. Motion made by Mr. Kouros, seconded by Mr. Jaroszewski. Chairman Graf advised those present he had the honor of sitting in on the interview process and believes the three officers will be a good addition to the Schererville Police Department. Motion carries (4 – 0).

THEREUPON, Reports

ITEM A. Police Chief

Chief Sormaz advised the Board of the appointment of Officer Knight to the Detective Bureau. At this time the Commander of the Detective Bureau, Kevin Wagner, came forward and gave a summary of what Officer Knight had achieved in his approximately eighteen months as a cross-trained detective. He went on to add that Officer Knight has almost twenty years with the department. Chief Sormaz awarded Officer Knight with his detective's shield.

Chief Sormaz stated all the reports were in the packet.

For the month of October, 2023, the Patrol Division responded to 1,632 incidents and took 132 accident reports. There were 163 total arrests. The Patrol Division filed 191 charges of which 79 were Class A Misdemeanors, 28 were Class B Misdemeanors, 55 were Class C Misdemeanors, and 29 were Level 6 Felonies. The Patrol Division served 89 total warrants. They performed 765 traffic stops resulting in 460 citations issued of which 134 were local ordinances and 326 were state infractions. 451 warnings were also issued. The Patrol Division performed 130 vehicle searches, of which 34 were K9 vehicle searches. There were 223 Proactive Patrols.

For the month of November, 2023, the Patrol Division responded to 1,695 incidents and took 120 accident reports. There were 171 total arrests. The Patrol Division filed 221 charges of which 84 were Class A Misdemeanors, 46 were Class B Misdemeanors, 61 were Class C Misdemeanors, and 30 were Level 6 Felonies. The Patrol Division served 77 total warrants. They performed 583 traffic stops resulting in 373 citations issued of which 128 were local ordinances and 245 were state infractions. 491 warnings were also issued. The Patrol Division performed 143 vehicle searches, of which 52 were K9 vehicle searches. There were 159 Proactive Patrols.

For the month of December, 2023, the Criminal Investigations Division reports were unavailable at the time of the meeting.

For the month of December, 2023, Schererville Police Officers attended 171.5 hours of training.

ITEM B. Fire Chief

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

For the month of December, 2023, the Schererville Fire Department performed 10 inspections, responded to 357 incidents of which 312 were EMS related, 16 were Fire related, 26 were Alarms/Investigations, and 3 were Fire Prevention, Inspections and/or trainings. They also attended 425.25 hours of training.

ITEM C. Attorney – NONE

Attorney Estrada welcomed the new members of the Board.

THEREUPON, Board Members

Eric Graf

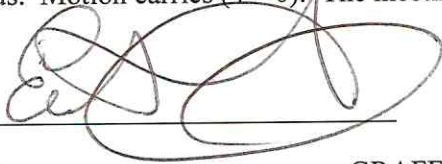
Chairman Graf advised those present that on December 9, 2023, Santa was delivered to the Adcock children, whom lost their parents in a motorcycle crash in June of 2023. He went on to add that numerous first responders as well as fire departments showed up for the event and he thanked everyone that helped make the event special for the children.

THEREUPON, Business from the Floor

NONE

THEREUPON, Adjournment

There being no further business, Mr. Jaroszewski made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Veitkus. Motion carries (4-0). The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.



ERIC SCHERERVILLE
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GRAFF
BOARD OF
CHAIRMAN



GEORGE KOUROS
SCHERERVILLE BOARD OF
SAFETY VICE CHAIRMAN
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