

TOWN OF SCHERERVILLE

SCHERERVILLE, INDIANA

BOARD OF SAFETY MEETING

November 2, 2023

The Board of Safety Meeting was called to order by Chairman David Eenigenburg at 6:30 p.m., in the Schererville Town Hall Conference Room, 10 E. Joliet Street, Schererville, IN.

Attendance was taken with the following Board Members present: David Eenigenburg, 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, Town Manager Jim Gorman, Director of Operations Andy Hansen, and Schererville Town Council President Tom Schmitt. Absent: Vice Chairman Rich Pietrzak, and Deputy Chief of Police Steven McNamara.

THEREUPON, Approval of the Minutes

Mr. O'Rourke made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 5, 2023 Public Meeting, seconded by Mr. Graf. Motion carries (4 – 0).

THEREUPON, Correspondence

ITEM A. PD – None

ITEM B. FD – None

THEREUPON, Old Business

ITEM A. PD – New Hire Process Update

Chief Sormaz advised the Board that Brett Bandstra accepted the conditional offer of employment and had completed all steps for the offer. Tomorrow, November 3, 2023, the local Pension Board will convene at 10 a.m. After the Pension Board meets, the next step in the process is to send the application to the Indiana Public Retirement System. At this time Chief Sormaz recommended to the Board that the New Hire Process be suspended. Motion made by Mr. Kouros, seconded by Mr. O'Rourke. Mr. O'Rourke Motion carries (4 – 0).

ITEM C. FD – NONE

THEREUPON, New Business

ITEM A. FD – Approval of Job Status Change for Three People

Chief Patterson requested approval from the Board for the Job Status change of four people:

Domini Zuccarelli, Noah Wells, Jacob Thornton, and Collin Zackavec from Firefighter/Paramedic 2nd Class to Firefighter/Paramedic 1st Class. Motion made by Mr. Kouros, seconded by Mr. O'Rourke. Motion carries (4 – 0).

ITEM B. FD – Award Ceremony for Nick Minkema

Chief Patterson reminded the Board that at the October meeting they recognized members of a crew that responded to a residential fire that occurred on February 11, 2023. Nick Minkema was unable to attend the October meeting and at this time Chief Patterson presented him with the Medal of Courage Award for his actions of bravery on that day - for finding the victim and, with the assistance of Captain Trevino, pulling the victim from the burning residence.

ITEM C. FD – Years of Service Awards

Chief Patterson recognized seven members of the Schererville Fire Department for their years of service:

- Firefighter/EMT – P Robert Wahlman – 5 years of service
- Firefighter/EMT Joe Rhoades – 10 years of service
- Firefighter/EMT Marc Radovich – 10 years of service
- Firefighter/EMT – P Jeff Marsack – 10 years of service
- Firefighter/EMT Jon Gill – 10 years of service
- Captain Joe Konicek – 15 years of service
- Firefighter/EMT Aaron Anderson – 25 years of service

ITEM D. PD – Time Promotion of four Officers

Chief Sormaz requested the approval of the Board for the time promotion of four officers from 2nd Class Patrolman to 1st Class Patrolman, effective November 12, 2023: Officer Tiffany Beemsterboer, Badge #218, Officer Kenneth Galliher, Badge #219, Officer Scott Karras, Badge # 220, Officer Michael Osborn, Badge #221. He advised the Board that all officers have completed all aspects of their time promotions. Motion made by Mr. Graf, seconded by Mr. O'Rourke. Motion carries (4 – 0).

ITEM E. PD – Emergency Hire Process

Under Old Business, the New Hire List was suspended. Chief Sormaz recommended the Board initiate a new Emergency Hire List for Certified Indiana Law Enforcement Officers, effective immediately. Motion made by Mr. Graf, seconded by Mr. O'Rourke. Chairman Eenigenburg asked if there was any discussion to which Mr. O'Rourke inquired of Chief Sormaz for a time line of how long the posting would be available. Chief Sormaz replied that the posting would be available for approximately 30 to 45 days. He went on to add that with the interviews and backgrounds they would look to swear in new officers late January or early February, 2024. Motion Passes (4 – 0).

ITEM F. PD – Corporal List

Chief Sormaz reminded the Board that in December, 2021, the Board certified the Corporal list. The list, good for two years, is set to expire on December 13, 2023. Chief Sormaz asked the Board for permission to move forward with negotiating contract talks with the company that conducts the promotional testing, so when the list expires, a new one can be created. He stated the list will remain active until December 13. Motion made by Mr. Graf, seconded by Mr. O'Rourke. Motion carries (4 – 0).

THEREUPON, Reports

ITEM A. Police Chief

Chief Sormaz recognized the Fire Department personnel for their years of service.

Chief Sormaz informed the Board the department would be hosting a Women's Self Defense Class on November 20, 2023 from 5:45 p.m. to 9 p.m. The class will be held in the Meeting and Training Facility Court Room. Applications are available 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday from the Records Department and are for women, ages sixteen and up that are residents of the Town of Schererville.

Chief Sormaz stated all the reports were in the packet.

For the month of September, 2023 the Patrol Division responded to 1,561 incidents and took 282 accident reports. There were 161 total arrests. The Patrol Division filed 165 charges of which 72 were Class A Misdemeanors, 27 were Class B Misdemeanors, 38 were Class C Misdemeanors, 1 Level 3 Felony, 1 Level 5 Felony, and 26 Level 6 Felonies. The Patrol Division served 89 total warrants. They performed 743 traffic stops resulting in 387 citations issued of which 129 were local ordinances and 258 were state infractions. 471 warnings were also issued. The Patrol Division performed 121 vehicle searches, of which 43 were K9 vehicle searches. There were 233 Proactive Patrols.

For the month of October, 2023, the Patrol Division reports were unavailable at the time of the meeting.

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

For the month of October, 2023, Schererville Police Officers attended 312 hours of training.

ITEM B. Fire Chief

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

For the month of October, 2023, the Schererville Fire Department performed 16 inspections, responded to 315 incidents of which 256 were EMS related, 22 Fire related, 31 were Alarms/Investigations, and 6 were Fire Prevention, Inspections and/or trainings. They also attended 644.5 hours of training.

ITEM C. Attorney – NONE

THEREUPON, Board Members George Kouros

Mr. Kouros congratulated the Fireman for their years of service.

THEREUPON, Business from the Floor NONE

THEREUPON, Adjournment

There being no further business, Mr. O'Rourks made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Kouros. Motion carries (4 – 0). The meeting was adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

DAVID EENIGENBURG
SCHERERVILLE BOARD OF
SAFETY CHAIRMAN
A TRUE COPY

RICHARD PIETRZAK
SCHERERVILLE BOARD OF
SAFETY VICE CHAIRMAN
A TRUE COPY