

TOWN OF SCHERERVILLE

SCHERERVILLE, INDIANA

BOARD OF SAFETY MEETING

November 7, 2024

The Board of Safety Meeting was called to order by Chairman Eric Graf at 5:38 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: Eric Graf, George Kouros, David Eenigenburg, David Jaroszewski, and Giovanni Veitkus. Staff members present: Chief of Police 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 James Gorman, and Director of Operations Andrew Hansen.

THEREUPON, Amendment of the Agenda

Chairman Graf requested from the Board members present a motion to amend the agenda under New Business, Letter C, 2024, vacation rollover of the Fire Department. Motion made by Mr. Kouros, seconded by Mr. Veitkus. Motion carries (5 – 0).

THEREUPON, Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Jaroszewski made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 3, 2024, regular Public Meeting, seconded by Mr. Veitkus. Motion carries (5 – 0).

THEREUPON, Correspondence

ITEM A. FD – NONE

ITEM B. PD – NONE

THEREUPON, Old Business

ITEM A. FD – NONE

ITEM B. PD – NONE

THEREUPON, New Business

ITEM A. FD – Years of Service Award

Chief Patterson recognized Battalion Chief Steve Waterstraat for his fifteen years of service. Chief Patterson informed those present that Battalion Chief Waterstraat served for eight years with the United States Army before joining the Schererville Fire Department on February 16, 2009, as a part-time Firefighter/Emergency Medical Technician (E.M.T.). Battalion Chief Waterstraat became one of three employees that were able to be hired full time on November 23, 2009, due to a grant the Fire Department received. Chief Patterson went on to add that Battalion Chief Waterstraat obtained numerous other certifications over the years including his Paramedic License. Battalion Chief Waterstraat was promoted to Lieutenant in January 2013, followed by Captain in March of 2015, and finally, his current position of Battalion Chief, in December of 2022. Chief Patterson invited Battalion Chief Waterstraat forward to receive his plaque.

ITEM B. PD – Emergency Hire Process

Chief Sormaz requested the Board allow him to initiate the emergency hire process to establish a list of certified, qualified officers in the event an opening becomes available. Chief Sormaz went on to add the traditional hire list is set to expire the beginning of December, and the department will establish both an emergency hire list and a traditional hire list in conjunction with one another. Chairman Graf requested of Chief Sormaz a projected date when the traditional hire list would be started, to which he replied he would be requesting approval from the Board to establish a traditional hire list once the current one expires. Motion made by Mr. Jaroszewski, seconded by Mr. Veitkus. Motion passes (5 – 0).

ITEM C. FD – Vacation Rollover

Chief Patterson asked the approval of the Board for the vacation rollover from 2024 to 2025. Chairman Graf inquired if this was an annual request, to which Chief Patterson responded yes. Motion made by Mr. Jaroszewski, seconded by Mr. Veitkus. Motion passes (5 – 0).

THEREUPON, Reports

ITEM A. Police Chief

For the month of September, 2024, the Patrol Division reports were unavailable.

For the month of September, 2024, the Criminal Investigations Division (CID) reports were unavailable.

For the month of October, 2024, Schererville Police Officers attended 169 hours of training.

For the month of September, 2024, the Animal Control Division reports were unavailable.

ITEM B. Fire Chief

For the month of October, 2024, the Schererville Fire Department performed 52 inspections, responded to 303 incidents of which 249 were EMS related, 24 were Fire related, 18 were Alarms/Investigations, and 12 were Fire Prevention, Inspection and/or training. They also attended 248.5 hours of training.

ITEM C. Attorney – NONE

THEREUPON, Board Members Giovanni Veitkus

Mr. Veitkus informed the Board that they were currently in the exploratory stage, but want to host a Breakfast with Santa where the proceeds would be split 50/50 and benefit the Police and Fire Departments. Chairman Graf requested, for clarification purposes, that the breakfast is not a Board initiative, to which M. Veitkus responded, no, it was not, however, he would like to see participation from both the Police and Fire Departments, when plans are finalized.

THEREUPON, Business from the Floor Scott Savich

Scott Savich, President of the Fraternal Order of Police (F.O.P.) Lodge 170, thanked the Board on behalf of the organization for their support in approving the Emergency Hire Process. He went on to add that, by allowing the department to move forward with this process, the department has the opportunity to bring in only those most qualified, who will not only align with the department’s core principles of integrity and dedication to public service, but who will also uphold the trust of the community and work tirelessly to keep Schererville a safe place for all.

THEREUPON, Adjournment

There being no further business, Mr. Jaroszewski made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Veitkus. Motion carries (5 – 0). The meeting was adjourned at 5:56 p.m.

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|--------------------|----------|-----------------------|--|
| _____              |          | _____                 |  |
| ERIC               | GRAF     | GEORGE KOUROS         |  |
| SCHERERVILLE       | BOARD OF | SCHERERVILLE BOARD OF |  |
| SAFETY             | CHAIRMAN | SAFETY VICE CHAIRMAN  |  |
| <u>A TRUE COPY</u> |          | <u>A TRUE COPY</u>    |  |

