

TOWN OF SCHERERVILLE

SCHERERVILLE, INDIANA

BOARD OF SAFETY MEETING

October 3, 2024

The Board of Safety Meeting was called to order by Chairman Eric Graf at 5:33 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, 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 and Town Manager James Gorman. Absent: David Jaroszewski.

THEREUPON, Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Veitkus made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 9, 2024, regular Public Meeting, seconded by Mr. Eenigenburg. Motion carries (4 – 0).

THEREUPON, Correspondence

ITEM A. FD – NONE

ITEM B. PD – Thank you card from Chuck Gross

Chief Sormaz informed the Board he had received a thank-you note from Chuck Gross, one of the Volunteers in Policing. Mr. Gross thanked the department for their assistance with the funeral of his wife.

THEREUPON, Old Business

ITEM A. FD – NONE

ITEM B. PD – NONE

THEREUPON, New Business

ITEM A. FD – Time Promotion for three employees

Chief Patterson requested approval from the Board for the time promotion of three employees:

- Alexander Bruskoski from Firefighter/Paramedic 2nd Class to Firefighter/Paramedic 1st Class
- Timothy Jenkins from Firefighter/EMT 2nd Class to Firefighter/EMT 1st Class
- Nicholas Minkema from Firefighter/EMT 2nd Class to Firefighter/EMT 1st Class

Motion made by Mr. Eenigenburg, seconded by Mr. Veitkus. Motion carries (4 – 0). Chairman Graf stated the Board had opportunity to review the evaluations submitted on these employees and all are held in high regard. Chief Patterson went on to add the time promotions were effective October 16, 2024.

ITEM B. FD – Approval to hire one part-time employee

Chief Patterson requested approval from the Board to hire one part-time employee to fill open slots:

- Christopher Konopasek – Paramedic

Motion made by Mr. Eenigenburg, seconded by Mr. Veitkus. Motion carries (4 – 0).

ITEM C. PD – Recommend the purchase of service weapon – Chris Lopez

Chief Sormaz recommended the Board approve the purchase of a service weapon for Officer Chris Lopez, who served on the department for eighteen years. Chief Sormaz further added Chris Lopez is willing to pay the replacement cost of the weapon. Motion made by Mr. Kouros, seconded by Mr. Veitkus. Chairman Graf inquired of Chief Sormaz, before motions carries, if it was the same amount of money the department purchased the weapon for, to which he replied, yes, it was. He indicated to the Board members he supplied the receipt in their packets. He further explained the cost of a new weapon was \$499.00 from the distributor the department uses – ACME Sports. Mr. Veitkus queried if the weapon the department would be purchasing would match those currently carried by officers on the street, to which Chief Sormaz stated that it would. Motion carries (4 – 0).

THEREUPON, Reports

ITEM A. Police Chief

Chief Sormaz advised the Board he had nothing further other than what was in the packet.

For the month of August, 2024, the Patrol Division responded to 1,738 incidents and took 87 accident reports. There were 178 total arrests. The Patrol Division filed 289 charges of which 96 were Class A Misdemeanors, 51 were Class B Misdemeanors, 104 were Class C Misdemeanors, 2 were a Level 5 Felonies, and 36 were Level 6 Felonies. The Patrol Division served 107 total warrants. They performed 797 traffic stops resulting in 605 citations issued of which 231 were local ordinances and 374 were state infractions. 566 warnings were also issued. The Patrol Division performed 169 vehicle searches, of which 61 were K9 vehicle searches. There were 234 Proactive Patrols.

For the month of August, 2024, the Criminal Investigations Division (CID) filed 72 criminal charges which were the result of 28 cases. Of these charges, 49 were felony, 22 were misdemeanor, and 1 was Federal. 5 were filed in the Schererville Town Court, 66 were filed in Lake County Court, and 1 was filed in Federal Court. The CID investigated 77 incidents for the month of August.

For the month of September, 2024, Schererville Police Officers attended 826 hours of training.

For the month of September, 2024, the Animal Control Division had 42 calls for service, 1 bite report and took in 9 animals.

ITEM B. Fire Chief

Chief Patterson reminded the Board that Saturday, October 5, 2024, is the annual Fire Department open house from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Fire Station #2, 280 Plum Creek Drive.

For the month of September, 2024, the Schererville Fire Department performed 42 inspections, responded to 323 incidents of which 270 were EMS related, 58 were Fire related, 21 were Alarms/Investigations, and 4 were Fire Prevention, Inspection and/or training. They also attended 613 hours of training.

ITEM C. Attorney – NONE

THEREUPON, Board Members

Mr. Veitkus requested that, under New Business, at the November Meeting, he would like the addition of one officer to raise the amount of officers for the department. At this time, Attorney Estrada requested A Point of Order from Chairman Graf whom advised him to proceed. Attorney Estrada informed those present that the Chairman of the Board dictates what is placed on the agenda with input from the Chief. He went on to add that members of the Board generally do not have the authority to do this. Chairman Graf requested, for further clarification, if at the November meeting the issue can be re-addressed, to which Attorney Estrada yes, but only if the Chief requested it be on the agenda or the Board chairman finds it to be appropriate. Chairman Graf stated he and Chief Sormaz would have a conversation in reference to this possible agenda item. Attorney Estrada disclosed he did not want anyone to believe that the Board can ask for an item to be placed on the agenda and it is automatically placed upon the agenda, that there is a process to have items on the agenda.

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. Veitkus. Motion carries (4 – 0). The meeting was adjourned at 5:41 p.m.

ERIC
SCHERERVILLE
SAFETY
A TRUE COPY

GRAF
BOARD OF
CHAIRMAN

GEORGE KOUROS
SCHERERVILLE BOARD OF
SAFETY VICE CHAIRMAN
A TRUE COPY