

TOWN OF SCHERERVILLE

SCHERERVILLE, INDIANA

BOARD OF SAFETY MEETING

January 5, 2023

The Board of Safety Meeting was called to order by Chairman Eric Graf 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: Eric Graf, David Eenigenburg, Mike O'Rourke, Rich Pietrzak, and George Kouros. 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, Schererville Town Council liaison Tom Schmitt, Town Manager Jim Gorman, Director of Operations Andy Hansen.

THEREUPON, Amendment of the Agenda

Chairman 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. Pietrzak, seconded by Mr. Kouros. Motion carries (5 – 0).

THEREUPON, Board Election

Motion made by Mr. Pietrzak to nominate Mr. O'Rourke as Secretary for the Board of Safety 2023 year, seconded by Mr. Kouros. Motion carries (5 – 0).

Motion made by Mr. Eenigenburg to nominate Mr. Pietrzak as the Vice Chairman for the Board of Safety 2023 year, seconded by Mr. Kouros. Motion carries (5 – 0).

Motion made by Mr. O'Rourke to nominate Mr. Eenigenburg as the Chairman for the Board of Safety 2023 year, seconded by Mr. Kouros. Motion carries (5 – 0).

Mr. Graf advised those present that he has served on the Board of Safety for the past decade and considers it an honor and privilege to do so. He thanked those that have helped keep him on the Board. At this time Mr. Graf and Mr. Eenigenburg traded places.

THEREUPON, Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Graf made a motion to approve the minutes of the December 1, 2022 Public Meeting, seconded by Mr. Pietrzak. Motion carries (5 – 0).

THEREUPON, Correspondence

ITEM A. PD – Thank you from Springvale Residents and Descent of the Holy Spirit Orthodox Church

Police Chief Sormaz advised the Board he had received a thank-you letter from the residents of Springvale, who were having traffic issues in their area. The Police Department set up the traffic monitor and had officers assigned to the area.

Police Chief Sormaz further advised the Board he had received a thank-you letter from the Descent of the Holy Spirit Orthodox Church thanking several individuals: Andy Hansen, Lisa Cates, Kevin Bolton, George Mousetis from the Public Works Department and Brian Daniels of the Police Department for their assistance with flags at events and ceremonies.

ITEM B. FD – NONE

THEREUPON, Old Business

ITEM A. PD – Emergency Hire Update

Police Chief Sormaz informed the Board that the conditional offer of employment was extended by Deputy Chief McNamara to the top two candidates on the Emergency Hire List, Gerardo Garza Jr., and Luke Paprocki. They are slated to be sworn in on January 23, 2023 at 9 o'clock in the Meeting and Training Facility. He further advised the Board the Police Department was awaiting the Indiana Public Retirement System (INPRS) to finish the transfer paperwork for both candidates. He believes the Police Department should have the paperwork by this date.

Police Chief Sormaz made the Board aware that he met with the new Town Manager, Jim Gorman, who approved the department to extend another conditional offer of employment to one more candidate on the list who will begin the first week of April, 2023. Chief Sormaz requested permission from the Board to extend the conditional offer of employment to the number three candidate from the Emergency Hire List. He also requested to move to the fourth candidate if the third one declined. Attorney Estrada clarified the Chief's request by stating a motion should be made to allow Chief Sormaz to extend conditional offers of employment until acceptance is made. Motion made by Mr. O'Rourke, seconded by Mr. Pietrzak. Motion carries (5 – 0).

ITEM B. PD – Reserve Program Update

Deputy Chief of Police McNamara advised the Board the physical agility test for the Reserve Program would be held on January 15, 2023 at Lake Central High School. He further apprised the Board that one candidate had backed out and the department currently has nine candidates. Three officers will be in attendance to proctor the test with oral interviews to follow, which Board members will be included in.

Mr. Graf asked how many reserves the department would be taking on to which Deputy Chief McNamara responded four.

ITEM C. FD – Paramedic School

Fire Chief Patterson informed the Board the Fire Department had four candidates that went through Paramedic School in 2022. All four candidates took their National Registry test and passed the first attempt.

THEREUPON, New Business

ITEM A. PD – Policy Updates

Police Chief Sormaz requested permission from the Board to update seven policies: General Order Overtime Compensation Policy, General Order Drug Testing Policy, General Order State Crash Report Requirements Policy, Police Vehicle Crashes Policy, Patrol Division Administration Policy, Authorized Department Leave Policy, and Car per Officer Policy. He advised the Board all policies had been reviewed by Attorney Estrada. Motion made by Mr. Pietrzak, seconded by Mr. O'Rourke. Motion carries (5 – 0).

ITEM B. PD – Eligibility Roster

Police Chief Sormaz advised the Board the eligibility roster for new recruits expires on January 8, 2023. He requested approval from the Board to initiate a new hire list. Motion made by Mr. Pietrzak, seconded by Mr. O'Rourke. Motion carries (5 – 0).

ITEM C. FD – Approval to hire part-time Paramedic

Fire Chief Patterson requested approval from the Board to hire part-time Paramedic Audra Holm. Motion made by Mr. O'Rourke, seconded by Mr. Pietrzak. Mr. O'Rourke asked if this hiring would be to increase personnel or to replace personnel to which Fire Chief Patterson replied increase. Motion Carries (5 -0).

THEREUPON, Reports

ITEM A. Police Chief

Police Chief Sormaz advised the Board that Officer Riley Arvanitis was awarded the Indiana Criminal Justice Institutes "Gold Glove Award". The award was only awarded to six total Police Officers in the state of Indiana for their efforts in DUI enforcement.

For the month of November, 2022, the Patrol Division had: 1,689 calls for service; 121 accident reports; issued 489 warnings and 549 total citations of which 110 were Local Ordinance Citations, and 439 were State Infraction Citations. There were 190 total arrests. The Patrol Division filed 291 total charges of which 116 were Class A Misdemeanors, 61 were Class B Misdemeanors, 77 were Class C Misdemeanors, 1 Level 4 Felony, 1 Level 5 Felony, and 35 Level 6 Felonies. The Patrol Division served 93 total Warrants, and had 205 Proactive Patrols for the month.

For the month of December, 2022, the Patrol Division had: 1,512 calls for service; 105 accident reports; issued 421 warnings and 426 total citations of which 63 were Local Ordinance Citations, and 363 were State Infraction Citations. There were 180 total arrests. The Patrol Division filed 314 total charges of which 134 were Class A Misdemeanors, 70 were Class B Misdemeanors, 82 were Class C Misdemeanors, and 28 Level 6 Felonies. The Patrol Division served 77 total Warrants, and had 137 Proactive Patrols for the month.

For the month of November, 2022, the Criminal Investigations Division filed 50 criminal charges, of which 38 were felony, 12 were misdemeanor, 0 were local ordinances, and 0 were Federal. The breakdown of the 50 cases assigned to the Criminal Investigations Division for November: 17 Miscellaneous, 16 Theft/Shoplifting, 4 Fraud, 1 Drugs, 1 Sex Offense, 2 Auto Thefts, 1 Burglary/Home Invasions, and 3 Battery/Domestics.

For the year 2022, the Criminal Investigations Division filed a total of 426 charges of which 231 were Felony charges, 192 Misdemeanor charges, 3 Federal charges, and 3 Local ordinance charges.

For the month of December, 2022, Schererville Police Officers attended 186 hours of training.

For the month of December, 2022, the Animal Control Division had 29 calls for service and 1 bite report.

ITEM B. Fire Chief

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

For the month of December, 2022, the Schererville Fire Department performed 9 inspections, responded to 389 incidents of which 307 were EMS related, 35 Fire related, 44 were Alarms/Investigations, and 3 were Fire Prevention, Inspections and or trainings. They also attended 462.5 hours of training.

ITEM C. Attorney

Attorney Estrada

Attorney Estrada wished the Board a Happy New Year and informed them he was starting his fourth year as the Board of Safety Attorney.

THEREUPON, Board Members NONE

THEREUPON, Business from the Floor NONE

THEREUPON, Adjournment

There being no further business, Mr. Pietrzak made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Kouros. Motion carries (5 – 0). The meeting was adjourned at 6:44 p.m.

DAVID EENIGENBURG
SCHERERVILLE BOARD OF
SAFETY CHAIRMAN
A TRUE COPY

RICHARD PIETRZAK
SCHERERVILLE BOARD OF
SAFETY VICE CHAIRMAN
A TRUE COPY

