

The Board of Safety Meeting was called to order by Chairman David Eenigenburg 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: David Eenigenburg, Rich Pietrzak, Mike O'Rourke 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 President Thomas Schmitt, Town Manager Jim Gorman, and Director of Operations Andy Hansen. Absent: Eric Graf

THEREUPON, Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Pietrzak made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 1, 2023 Public Meeting, seconded by Mr. Kouros. Motion carries (4 – 0).

THEREUPON, Correspondence

ITEM A. PD – Thank-you letter from the Radowski Family

Chief Sormaz advised the Board he had received a letter from Larry, Agatha, and Dean Radowski regarding Cpl. Segovia's professionalism in handling an incident.

ITEM B. FD – Thank-you letter from Tri-Kappa

Chief Patterson notified the Board the Fire Department had received a tray of cookies and a letter thanking them for their services.

ITEM C. FD – Thank-you from town resident for help with CO and Smoke Alarm

Chief Patterson made the Board aware that he had received a thank-you letter from Helen Latia for their assistance with her smoke and CO detectors.

ITEM D. FD – Thank-you from the Lowell Fire Department

Chief Patterson also advised the Board he had received a thank-you letter from the Lowell Fire Department for their assistance with a large industrial fire on February 10, 2023.

THEREUPON, Old Business

ITEM A. PD – Memo Executive Session from February 1, 2023

Chief Sormaz recommended the Board approve the Memo from the Executive Session on February 1, 2023 as it was presented. Motion made by Mr. Pietrzak, seconded by Mr. O'Rourke. Motion passes (4 – 0).

ITEM B. PD – Emergency Hire Update

Chief Sormaz recommended the Board close the Emergency Hire Process. The New Hire Process was initiated and is under Old Business, letter D. For clarification, Attorney Estrada stated Chief Sormaz recommends closing the Emergency Hire List and re-instate the Regular list. Motion made by Mr. Pietrzak, seconded by Mr. O'Rourke. Motion passes (4 – 0).

ITEM C. PD – Reserve Program Update

Deputy Chief McNamara advised the Board that oral interviews for the Reserve Program will be set up closer to the end of March. He went on to add that some equipment had already been ordered. Deputy Chief McNamara also stated they were working with ILEA (Indiana Law Enforcement Academy) to be prepared for the pre-basics once they are hired. Chief Sormaz added they would work with schedule so that the Board members can participate in the interviews as well and hope to hold interviews the week of March 20, 2023.

ITEM D. PD – New Hire Process

Chief Sormaz made the Board aware that a New Hire Process was implemented with Stanard & Associates, with the close date slated for March 20, 2023 at 4 pm. He further explained that Stanard & Associates would send him a list of applicants and from there, a physical fitness test and written examination would be set up, which they will try and hold the same day.

ITEM E. FD – NONE

THEREUPON, New Business

ITEM A. FD – Approval to hire one Part-Timer

Chief Patterson requested approval from the Board to hire part-time Firefighter/EMT Alex Szorc. Motion made by Mr. O'Rourke, seconded by Mr. Pietrzak. Motion carries (4 – 0).

ITEM B. PD – 2022 Awards for Sworn and Civilian

Detective Commander Kevin Wagner recognized Detective Hector Mendez and Cross-Trained Detective Scott Savich as the Schererville Police Department's 2022 Investigators of the year.

Patrol Commander Michael Bork recognized Officer Anthony Rubino as the Schererville Police Department's 2022 Officer of the year.

Dispatch and Records Supervisor Kelly Wynkoop recognized Dispatcher Kara Ralowski-Rak as the Schererville Police Department's 2022 Civilian of the year.

Chairman Eenigenburg congratulated all recipients on behalf of the Board of Safety.

THEREUPON, Reports

ITEM A. Police Chief

Chief Sormaz informed the Board that in addition to the information provided in the packet, they would be holding Coffee with a Cop on March 7, 2023 at Round the Clock Restaurant from 8 am to 10 am. He also congratulated all the recipients of the 2022 awards.

For the month of January, 2023 the Patrol division responded to 1,540 incidents and took 68 accident reports. They performed 1,216 traffic stops resulting in 753 citations issued of which 172 were local ordinances and 581 were state infractions. There were 221 total arrests. The Patrol Division filed 303 charges of which 109 were Class A Misdemeanors, 67 were Class B Misdemeanors, 83 were Class C Misdemeanors, 2 Level 5 Felonies, and 42 Level 6 Felonies. The Patrol Division served 87 total warrants and had 171 Proactive Patrols.

For the month of February, 2023, the Patrol Division Reports were unavailable.

For the month of February, 2023, the Criminal Investigations Division filed 26 criminal charges, of which 20 were felony, 6 were misdemeanor, 0 were local ordinances, and 0 were Federal. The breakdown of the 53 cases assigned to the Criminal Investigations Division for February: 19 Miscellaneous, 18 Theft/Shoplifting, 11 Fraud, 1 Drug, 0 Sex Offenses, 1 Auto Theft, 2 Burglary/Home Invasions, and 1 Battery/Domestic.

For the month of January, 2023, Schererville Police Officers attended 891 hours of training.

For the month of February, 2023, Schererville Police Officers attended 801 hours of training.

The Animal Control Division reports were unavailable at the time of the meeting.

ITEM B. Fire Chief

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

For the month of February, 2023, the Schererville Fire Department performed 31 inspections, responded to 311 incidents of which 259 were EMS related, 29 Fire related, 20 were Alarms/Investigations, and 3 were Fire Prevention, Inspections and or trainings. They also attended 713.05 hours of training.


ITEM C. Attorney NONE

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. O'Rourke. Motion carries (4 – 0). The meeting was adjourned at 6:49 p.m.



DAVID EENIGENBURG
SCHERERVILLE BOARD OF
SAFETY CHAIRMAN
A TRUE COPY



RICHARD PIETRZAK
SCHERERVILLE BOARD OF
SAFETY VICE CHAIRMAN
A TRUE COPY