

TOWN OF SCHERERVILLE

SCHERERVILLE, INDIANA

BOARD OF SAFETY MEETING

May 11, 2023

The Board of Safety Meeting was called to order by Chairman David Eenigenburg at 6:32 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, George Kouros, and Eric Graf. 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: Mike O'Rourke.

THEREUPON, Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Pietrzak made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 6, 2023 Public Meeting, seconded by Mr. O'Rourke. Motion carries (4 – 0).

THEREUPON, Correspondence

ITEM A. PD – Donation from Gail Lee

Chief Sormaz advised the Board he had received a twenty dollar check from Gail Lee for the Police Equipment fund. He thanked Ms. Lee for the donation.

ITEM B. FD – Thank-you letter from the Moran Family.

Chief Patterson informed the Board he had received a thank-you letter from the Moran Family for responding to their residence to check for a possible gas leak.

THEREUPON, Old Business

ITEM A. PD – New hire Process Update

Deputy Chief McNamara thanked the members of the Board that participated in the oral interviews for the new hire process. The score sheets were shipped overnight to Stanard and Associates, who will compile a final list for perusal by the Board. Deputy Chief McNamara stated they should have the list by next months' meeting.

ITEM C. FD – NONE

THEREUPON, New Business

ITEM A. FD – Approval of Job Status Change

Chief Patterson requested approval from the Board for the Job Status change from 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Firefighter/Paramedic to 2<sup>nd</sup> class Firefighter/Paramedic for Dominic Zuccarelli, Noah Wells, Jacob Thornton, and Collin Zackavec. Motion made by Mr. Pietrzak, seconded by Mr. Graff. Motion carries (4 – 0).

ITEM B. FD – Approval to Hire Part-Time Employees

Chief Patterson requested approval from the Board to hire two part-time employees, Robert Madon, Firefighter/Paramedic, and Austin Kwasniak, Firefighter/EMT. Motion made by Mr. Graf, seconded by Mr. Pietrzak. Motion carries (4 – 0).

ITEM C. PD – Time Promotions

Chief Sormaz requested approval from the Board for the Time Promotions from 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Patrolman to 2<sup>nd</sup> Class Patrolman for Officers Tiffany Beemsterboer, #218, Kenneth Galliher, #219, Scott Karras, #220, and Michael Osborn, #221, effective May 15, 2023. Chief Somaz further advised the Board all the letters from their respective supervisors as well as the Commander recommending their advancements were in the packet, and he too, recommends the Board advance these officers. Motion made by Mr. Pietrzak, seconded by Mr. Graf. Motion carries (4 – 0).

THEREUPON, Reports

ITEM A. Police Chief

Chief Sormaz stated all the reports were in the packet.

Chief Somaz reminded all present that the Police Memorial will take place on Friday, May 19, 2023 in the Police parking lot beginning at 1 pm, with the inspections taking place at noon. He further stated that if any Board Member would like to take part in the inspections, to arrive by noon on this day.

Chief Sormaz made the Board aware that prior to the Police Memorial, the Cop On a Rooftop annual event would take place on May 19<sup>th</sup>, from 5 am to 10 am at the Dunkin Donuts in Schererville, 1695 US Highway 41. The event raises money and awareness for Special Olympics, Indiana. Chief Sormaz went on to add that for the past three years, the Schererville Police Department has been number one in the state for receiving donations and he hopes to see everyone there.

For the month of March, 2023 the Patrol Division responded to 1,516 incidents and took 70 accident reports. There were 173 total arrests. The Patrol Division filed 209 charges of which 80 were Class A Misdemeanors, 40 were Class B Misdemeanors, 61 were Class C Misdemeanors, 4 Level 5 Felonies, and 24 Level 6 Felonies. The Patrol Division served 99 total warrants. They performed 926 traffic stops resulting in 545 citations issued of which 160 were local ordinances and 385 were state infractions. 621 warnings were also issued. The Patrol Division performed 103 vehicle searches, of which 16 were K9 vehicle searches. There were 186 Proactive Patrols.

For the month of April, 2023 the Patrol Division responded to 1,631 incidents and took 98 accident reports. There were 205 total arrests. The Patrol Division filed 260 charges of which 106 were Class A Misdemeanors, 52 were Class B Misdemeanors, 63 were Class C Misdemeanors, 3 Level 5 Felonies, and 36 Level 6 Felonies. The Patrol Division served 100 total warrants. They performed 1,052 traffic stops resulting in 633 citations issued of which 185 were local ordinances and 448 were state infractions. 730 warnings were also issued. The Patrol Division performed 137 vehicle searches, of which 30 were K9 vehicle searches. There were 194 Proactive Patrols.

For the month of April, 2023, the Criminal Investigations Division filed 52 criminal charges, of which 23 were felony, 29 were misdemeanor, 6 were filed in Schererville Town Court, 34 were filed in Lake County Court, and 3 were filed in the Lake County Juvenile Court. The breakdown of the 32 cases being investigated by the Criminal Investigations Division for March: 13 Miscellaneous, 4 Theft/Shoplifting, 10 Fraud, 2 Drug, 2 Sex Offenses, 0 Auto Theft, 0 Burglary/Home Invasions, and 1 Battery/Domestic.

For the month of April, 2023, Schererville Police Officers attended 398 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 April, 2023, the Schererville Fire Department performed 7 inspections, responded to 318 incidents of which 256 were EMS related, 25 Fire related, 34 were Alarms/Investigations, and 3 were Fire Prevention, Inspections and or trainings. They also attended 877.31 hours of training.

ITEM C. Attorney – NONE

