

TOWN OF SCHERERVILLE

SCHERERVILLE, INDIANA

BOARD OF SAFETY MEETING

February 1, 2024

The Board of Safety Meeting was called to order by Eric Graf at 6:30 p.m., in the Schererville Police department Meeting and Training Facility, 2 E. Joliet Street, Schererville, IN.

Attendance was taken with the following Board Members present: Eric Graf, George Kouros, David Eenigenburg, and David Jaroszewski. 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 Lauren Ehardt in lieu of Attorney Alfredo Estrada and Director of Operations Andy Hansen. Absent: Giovanni Veitkus.

THEREUPON, Approval of the Minutes

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

THEREUPON, Correspondence

ITEM A. PD – None

ITEM B. FD – Thank you Note from Hestermann Family and Donation

Chief Patterson advised the Board he had received two thank-you notes. The first was from the Hestermann family thanking the Fire Department for their assistance with a house fire they had on December 23, 2023. The second one was received from the Town and Country Homemakers Club, for whom the Fire Department did a presentation. Town and Country also donated fifty dollars.

THEREUPON, Old Business

ITEM A. PD – Emergency Hire Process Update

Chief Sormaz informed the Board they had one more officer they were waiting to hire as they were still waiting on the acceptance from the Indiana Public Retirement System (INPRS).

ITEM B. FD – NONE

THEREUPON, New Business

ITEM A. PD – Time Promotion

Chief Sormaz requested approval from the Board for the time promotion from 3rd Class Patrolman to 2nd Class Patrolman, effective February 22, 2024 for Officer Madeline Guillermo, badge #226. He advised the Board that she had completed all requirements for that phase of her training. Motion made by Mr. Eenigenburg, seconded by Mr. Jaroszewski. Motion carries (4 – 0).

ITEM B. FD – NONE

THEREUPON, Reports

ITEM A. Police Chief

Chief Sormaz advised the Board of the retirement of Officer Jake Parker and his K9 partner, Bosco. Officer Parker is slated to retire May 25, 2024, after twenty-one and a half years of service and approximately seven years for K9 Bosco. At this time Commander Bork came forward and spoke to the Board and those present in regards to the numerous accomplishments garnered by Officer Parker throughout his seasoned career; how he looked up to Officer Parker and emulated him at the beginning of his own career. Commander Bork wished him well and thanked him for his service.

Chief Sormaz stated all the reports were in the packet.

For the month of January, 2024 the Patrol Division Reports were unavailable at the time of the meeting.

For the year 2023, the Patrol Division responded to 20,202 incidents and took 1,166 accident reports. There were 2,104 total arrests. The Patrol Division filed 2,865 charges of which 1,136 were Class A Misdemeanors, 583 were Class B Misdemeanors, 710 were Class C Misdemeanors, 22 Level 5 Felonies, and 411 Level 6 Felonies, and 3 Level 4 Felonies. The Patrol Division served 1,049 total warrants. They performed 10,312 traffic stops resulting in 6,020 citations issued of which 1,634 were local ordinances and 4,386 were state infractions. 7,173 warnings were also issued. The Patrol Division performed 1,395 vehicle searches, of which 413 were K9 vehicle searches. There were 2,649 Proactive Patrols.

For the month of December, 2023, the Criminal Investigations Division filed 23 criminal charges, of which 14 were felony, and 9 were misdemeanor. 4 were filed in Schererville Town Court, 19 were filed in Lake County Court. The breakdown of the 56 cases being investigated by the Criminal Investigations Division for December: 23 Miscellaneous, 17 Theft/Shoplifting, 7 Fraud, 3 Drugs/K9/Overdose, 1 Sex Offenses, 2 Auto Thefts, 1 Burglary/Home Invasion, and 1 Battery/Domestic/Fight.

For the year 2023, the Criminal Investigations Division filed 524 criminal charges, of which 307 were felony, 207 were misdemeanor, and 10 were Federal Charges. 83 were filed in Schererville Town Court, 404 were filed in Lake County Court, and 27 were filed in Lake County Juvenile Court. The breakdown of the 610 cases that were investigated by the Criminal Investigations Division for the year 2023: 144 were cleared with charges filed, 238 were closed, 67 are inactive, 5 were transferred to other agency, 17 were cleared with an adult arrest, 2 were cleared with a juvenile arrest, and 136 are still active. 67% of the cases are either closed or charges filed – some of which were recently assigned.

For the month of January, 2024, Schererville Police Officers attended 399.5 hours of training.

ITEM B. Fire Chief

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

For the month of January, 2024, the Schererville Fire Department performed 24 inspections, responded to 360 incidents of which 283 were EMS related, 25 were Fire related, 50 were Alarms/Investigations, and 2 were Fire Prevention, Inspections and/or trainings. They also attended 425.25 hours of training.

ITEM C. Attorney – NONE

THEREUPON, Board Members NONE

THEREUPON, Business from the Floor Bernie Johnson

Bernie Johnson, a personal friend of the Parker family, came forward and also spoke in regards to the career of Officer Parker, stating Schererville was losing an excellent officer.

THEREUPON, Adjournment

There being no further business, Mr. Eenigenburg made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Jaroszewski. Motion carries (4 – 0). The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

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ERIC	GRAFF	GEORGE KOUROS
SCHERERVILLE	BOARD OF	SCHERERVILLE BOARD OF
SAFETY	CHAIRMAN	SAFETY VICE CHAIRMAN
<u>A TRUE COPY</u>		<u>A TRUE COPY</u>

