

TOWN OF SCHERERVILLE

SCHERERVILLE, INDIANA

BOARD OF SAFETY MEETING

September 5, 2024

The Board of Safety Meeting was called to order by Chairman Eric Graf at 5:30 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, George Kouros, David Eenigenburg, David Jaroszewski, 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 Director of Operations Andrew Hansen.

THEREUPON, Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Jaroszewski made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 8, 2024, regular Public Meeting, seconded by Mr. Veitkus. Motion carries (5 – 0).

THEREUPON, Correspondence

ITEM A. FD – Thank you card from Dyer / Schererville Library

Chief Patterson advised the Board he had received one thank-you letter from the Dyer / Schererville Library thanking the Fire Department for their assistance on July 31, 2024, with a library program in which the children were sprayed with water.

Chief Patterson also made the Board aware of the annual Fire Department Open House on October 5, 2024, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Fire Station #2, 280 Plum Creek Drive. He hopes those in attendance would be able to attend. Chairman Graf inquired if the Department would like to use CN Railroads Obie The Train for the Open House to which Chief Patterson replied yes. Chairman Graf advised Chief Patterson he would email him.

ITEM B. PD – NONE

THEREUPON, Old Business

ITEM A. FD – NONE

ITEM B. PD – NONE

THEREUPON, New Business

ITEM A. FD – NONE

ITEM B. PD – Time Promotion for Officer Keith Hickok

Chief Sormaz requested approval from the Board for the time promotion for Officer Keith Hickok badge #233, whom was hired in March 2024, and will complete his six month probationary period this month. Chief Sormaz advised the Board Officer Hickok had completed all necessary requirements for all the stages of time promotion, according to Police Policy and Procedure. This time promotion will be effective September 15, 2024, for 1st Class Patrolman. Chairman Graf inquired of the Chief if Officer Hickok was an Academy hire, to which he replied no, Officer Hickok was a lateral hire. Motion made by Mr. Jaroszewski, seconded by Mr. Veitkus. Motion carries (5 – 0).

THEREUPON, Reports

ITEM A. Police Chief

Chief Sormaz informed the Board that September 11th was right around the corner. He went on to add the Department was hosting the annual ceremony from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and would have Officers and Fire personnel posted at the memorial to raise awareness of never forgetting 9/11.

For the month of July, 2024, the Patrol Division responded to 1,688 incidents and took 69 accident reports. There were 170 total arrests. The Patrol Division filed 284 charges of which 110 were Class A Misdemeanors, 53 were Class B Misdemeanors, 82 were Class C Misdemeanors, 1 was a Level 4 Felony, and 38 were Level 6 Felonies. The Patrol Division served 83 total warrants. They performed 606 traffic stops resulting in 440 citations issued of which 353 were local ordinances and 105 were state infractions. 449 warnings were also issued. The Patrol Division performed 164 vehicle searches, of which 49 were K9 vehicle searches. There were 203 Proactive Patrols.

For the month of July, 2024, the Criminal Investigations Division (CID) filed 60 criminal charges which were the result of 29 cases. Of these 60 charges, 42 were felony, 15 were misdemeanor, and 3 were Federal. 6 were filed in the Schererville Town Court, 51 were filed in Lake County Court, and 3 were filed in Federal Court. The CID investigated 68 incidents for the month of July.

For the month of August, 2024, Schererville Police Officers attended 131 hours of training.

For the month of July, 2024, the Animal Control Division had 33 calls for service, 4 bite reports and took in 2 animals.

For the month of August, 2024, the Animal Control Division had 43 calls for service, 2 bite reports, and took in 2 animals.

ITEM B. Fire Chief

For the month of August, 2024, the Schererville Fire Department performed 83 inspections, responded to 364 incidents of which 282 were EMS related, 54 were Fire related, 24 were Alarms/Investigations, and 4 were Fire Prevention, Inspection and/or training. They also attended 578.3 hours of training.

ITEM C. Attorney – NONE

THEREUPON, Board Members Thank-you

Mr. Veitkus thanked both the Fire and Police Departments for coming out for Logan’s Walk.

Mr. Jaroszewski wanted to recognize the Schererville F.O.P. for an outstanding “Cop On A Rooftop” for the Special Olympics.

THEREUPON, Business from the Floor NONE

THEREUPON, Adjournment

There being no further business, Mr. Jaroszewski made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Veitkus. Motion carries (5 – 0). The meeting was adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

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GRAF
BOARD OF
CHAIRMAN

GEORGE KOUROS
SCHERERVILLE BOARD OF
SAFETY VICE CHAIRMAN
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