

TOWN OF SCHERERVILLE

SCHERERVILLE, INDIANA

BOARD OF SAFETY MEETING

December 1, 2022

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, and Deputy Fire Chief David Meyer. Also present: Attorney Alfredo Estrada and Schererville Town Council liaison Thomas Schmitt. Absent: Recording Secretary Stephanie Bottiger.

THEREUPON, Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Pietrzak made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 3, 2022 Public Meeting, seconded by Mr. Eenigenburg. Motion carries (5 – 0).

THEREUPON, Correspondence

ITEM A. PD – NONE

ITEM B. FD – NONE

THEREUPON, Old Business

ITEM A. FD – Station #3 Open House

Chief Patterson advised those present of the Fire Department, Station #3 Open house on December 3, 2022 from 10 am to 11 am.

ITEM B. FD – Food Drive

Chief Patterson advised those present of the annual Food Drive due to take place on December 10, 2022 from 10 am to 4 pm, held in the parking lot at Strack and VanTil in Schererville.

ITEM C. PD – Emergency Hire Update

Chief Sormaz apprised the Board that the department had received four applications for the Emergency Hire process, to date. He expects to receive a few more before the December 9, 2022 deadline. Chief Sormaz requested approval from the Board to, once the interviews are conducted and the list is established, extend the conditional offer of employment to two of the candidates on the list. Chief Sormaz expressed his concern of having to wait until the January 2023 meeting to extend the conditional offer. Motion made by Mr. Pietrzak, seconded by Mr. Eenigenburg. Motion carries (5 – 0).

ITEM D. PD – Reserve Program Update

Chief Sormaz updated the Board that the department had received ten applications for the Reserve Program. The window to apply closed on November 21, 2022. Chief Sormaz added that Deputy Chief McNamara would hold a physical fitness test in January, 2023. Mr. Kouros asked Chief Sormaz, of the ten that applied, how many were the department looking to accept, to which he replied four.

THEREUPON, New Business

ITEM A. FD – Approval to hire two Part-Timers

Chief Patterson requested approval from the Board to hire two part-timers, Dylon Vick, Firefighter/EMT and Ben Rosenfeldt, Firefighter/Paramedic. Motion made by Mr. O'Rourke, seconded by

Mr. Kouros. Motion passes (5 – 0). Mr. Graf asked Chief Patterson how many part-time fireman were on the department, to which he replied, with the hiring of Mr. Vick and Mr. Rosenfeldt, forty-eight.

ITEM 1A. FD – Rollover of vacation time.

Chief Patterson requested approval from the Board for some of the full-time members of the department to rollover their vacation hours. The hours are within the allowance allowed by the town. Motion made by Mr. O'Rourke, seconded by Mr. Kouros. Motion passes (5 – 0).

ITEM B. FD – Years of Service Awards

Chief Patterson recognized four members of the Schererville Fire Department for their years of service:

- Lieutenant Valentino Trevino – 5 years of service
- Battalion Chief Jon Gettemans – 10 years of service
- Firefighter/Paramedic Colin Hubbard – 15 years of service
- Captain Natalie Ferrantella – 15 years of service

ITEM C. PD – Time Promotions

Chief Sormaz requested approval from the Board for the time promotion of four officers, all of whom have satisfied the probationary period, completed their work in a satisfactory manor, and have letters of recommendation in their files, should the Board like to review them:

- Officer Dennis Jashenski, Badge #222, from Probationary Patrolman to 3rd Class Patrolman, effective December 11, 2022.
- Officer Martin Spizewski, Badge #223, from Probationary Patrolman to 3rd Class Patrolman, effective December 11, 2022.
- Officer Jacob Bermingham, Badge #224, from Probationary Patrolman to 1st Class Patrolman, effective December 25, 2022. Officer Bermingham was hired six months ago under the emergency hire list, and, according to Policy, the probationary period is six months.
- Officer Sean Leto, Badge #225, from Probationary Patrolman to 1st Class Patrolman, effective December 25, 2022.

Motion made by Mr. Pietrzak, seconded by Mr. Eenigenburg. Motion carries (5 – 0).

ITEM D. PD – Promotion of Officer Daniel Drexler to Corporal

Chief Sormaz recommended the Board approve the promotion of Officer Daniel Drexler to Corporal, effective December 11, 2022. Motion made by Mr. Pietrzak, seconded by Mr. Eenigenburg. Motion carries (5 – 0).

ITEM E. PD – Promotion of Officer Diego Alvarez to Corporal

Chief Sormaz recommended the Board approve the promotion of Officer Diego Alvarez to Corporal, effective December 11, 2022. Motion made by Mr. Pietrzak, seconded by Mr. Eenigenburg. Motion carries (5 – 0).

ITEM F. PD – Promotion of Corporal Brian Daniels to Sergeant

Chief Sormaz recommended the Board approve the promotion of Corporal Brian Daniels to Sergeant, effective December 11, 2022. Motion made by Mr. Pietrzak, seconded by Mr. Eenigenburg. Motion carries (5 – 0).

ITEM G. PD – Assignment of Officer Hector Mendez to the Detective Bureau

Chief Sormaz advised the Board of the appointment of Officer Hector Mendez to the Detective Bureau.

THEREUPON, Reports

ITEM A. Fire Chief

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

For the month of November, 2022, the Schererville Fire Department performed 24 inspections, responded to 304 incidents of which 249 were EMS related, 26 Fire related, 23 were Alarms/Investigations, and 6 were Fire Prevention, Inspections and or trainings. They also attended 415.15 hours of training.

ITEM B. Police Chief

Chief Sormaz congratulated everyone on their promotions and advised the Board the reports were in the packet.

Chief Sormaz advised the Board he wanted to recognize and thank a couple of families: Thomas and Patrycja Kuryga and Jennifer Smith from M & M Automotive. These people hosted the 2nd Annual Schererville K-9 Unit Fundraiser on October 28, 2022. The event, which raised \$14,000 for the K9 equipment fund, was sponsored by Skarva Manor, M & M Total Car Care, Zig E's Funland, Strack and Vantil, Backyard Bouncers of NWI, Smoothie King of St. John, and Wiers Chevy/GMC.

The Patrol Division reports were unavailable at the time of the meeting.

For the month of October, 2022, the Criminal Investigations Division filed 32 criminal charges, of which 12 were felony, 20 were misdemeanor, 0 were local ordinances, and 0 were Federal. The breakdown of the 21 cases assigned to the Criminal Investigations Division for October: 4 Miscellaneous, 12 Theft/Shoplifting, 1 Fraud, 1 Drug, 1 Sex Offense, 1 Auto Theft, 1 Burglary/Home Invasions, and 0 Battery/Domestics.

For the month of September, 2022, Schererville Police Officers attended 202 hours of training.

For the month of October, 2022, the Animal Control Division had 43 calls for service and no bite reports.

For the month of November, 2022, the Animal Control Division had 33 calls for service and 1 bite report.

ITEM C. Attorney NONE

THEREUPON, Board Members

Mr. O'Rourke made comment on an article he had read today that he found disturbing. The article stated that an Indiana State Trooper was struck on 80/94, and the article highlighted that this was the eighth officer to be struck while on the side of the road this year. He earnestly requested all officers to be careful.

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 (5 – 0). The meeting was adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

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BOARD OF
CHAIRMAN

DAVID EENIGENBURG
SCHERERVILLE BOARD OF
SAFETY VICE CHAIRMAN
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