

TOWN OF SCHERERVILLE

SCHERERVILLE, INDIANA

BOARD OF SAFETY MEETING

December 7, 2023

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, George Kouros, and Eric Graf. Staff members present: Police Chief Peter Sormaz, Deputy Chief of Police Steven McNamara, Deputy Fire Chief David Meyer, and Recording Secretary Stephanie Bottiger. Also present: Attorney Alfredo Estrada, Town Manager Jim Gorman, and Director of Operations Andy Hansen. Absent: Fire Chief Robert Patterson.

THEREUPON, Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Kouros made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 2, 2023 Public Meeting, seconded by Mr. Pietrzak. Motion carries (5 – 0).

THEREUPON, Correspondence

ITEM A. PD – Thank-you note from the Damron Family

Chief Sormaz advised the Board he had received a thank-you note from the Damron Family for performing periodic checks of their residence while the family attended a funeral.

ITEM B. FD – None

THEREUPON, Old Business

ITEM A. FD - NONE

ITEM B. PD – Emergency Hire Process Update

Chief Sormaz notified the Board that the end date to accept applications for the Emergency Hire is December 18, 2023, at 4 pm. He stated they had several applications on file.

THEREUPON, New Business

ITEM A. FD – Approval of Job Status Change for Three People

Deputy Fire Chief Meyer requested approval from the Board for the Job Status change for Enrique Pulido from Firefighter/EMT Entry Level to Firefighter/EMT 3rd Class. He advised the Board that Enrique had been working for a full year and progress reports on file from his superior officers stating there were no issues. Motion made by Mr. Kouros, seconded by Mr. O'Rourke. Motion carries (5 – 0).

ITEM B. FD – Approval of vacation rollover from 2023 to 2024

Deputy Fire Chief Meyer requested approval from the Board to roll vacation from 2023 to 2024 for some full-time staff members. Motion made by Mr. Kouros, seconded by Mr. Graf. Motion carries (5 – 0).

ITEM C. PD – Use of Force Policy

Chief Sormaz advised the Board that several months ago the state initiated a Use of Force Policy that had to be uniform across the board for all Police Departments within Indiana. He went on to add the Use of Force Policy had been reviewed by Attorney Alfredo Estrada. Chief Sormaz informed the Board that since Schererville is a part of the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA), the policies for both State and CALEA had to be blended together. The deadline for this policy is January 1, 2024. Chief Sormaz requested approval for the policy to be accepted. Motion made by Mr. Kouros, seconded by Mr. Pietrzak. Motion carries (5 – 0).

ITEM D. PD – Time Promotion of Two Officers

Chief Sormaz requested the approval of the Board for the time promotion of two officers from 2nd Class Patrolman to 1st Class Patrolman, effective December 10, 2023: Officer Dennis Jashenski, Badge #222 and Officer Martin Spizewski, Badge #223. He advised the Board that all officers have completed all aspects of their time promotions. Motion made by Mr. Pietrzak, seconded by Mr. Graf. Motion carries (5 – 0).

THEREUPON, Reports

ITEM A. Police Chief

Chief Sormaz stated all the reports were in the packet. He wished everyone Happy Holidays and thanked them for their hard work.

For the month of October, 2023 the Patrol Division reports were unavailable at the time of the meeting.

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For the month of October, 2023, the Criminal Investigations Division filed 56 charges, of which were 34 felony, and 22 were misdemeanor. 8 were filed with the Schererville Town Court and 48 were filed with the Lake County Court. The breakdown of the 54 cases being investigated by the Criminal Investigation Divisions for October: 20 Miscellaneous, 20 Theft/Shoplifting, 7 Fraud, 3 Drug, 1 Sex Offense, 1 Auto Theft, 0 Burglary/Home Invasions, and 2 Battery/Domestic.

For the month of November, 2023, the Criminal Investigations Division filed 35 charges, of which were 21 felony, 11 were misdemeanor, and 3 were Federal Charges. 7 were filed with the Schererville Town Court, and 25 were filed with the Lake County Court, and 3 were filed in Federal Court. The breakdown of the 57 cases being investigated by the Criminal Investigation Divisions for November: 21 Miscellaneous, 20 Theft/Shoplifting, 6 Fraud, 3 Drug, 2 Sex Offense/Stalking, 1 Auto Theft, 2 Burglary/Home Invasions, and 2 Battery/Domestic/Fight.

For the month of November, 2023, Schererville Police Officers attended 245 hours of training.

ITEM B. Fire Chief

Deputy Chief Meyer advised the Board the reports were in the packet and wished everyone Happy Holidays.

For the month of November, 2023, the Schererville Fire Department performed 42 inspections, responded to 336 incidents of which 271 were EMS related, 31 Fire related, 32 were Alarms/Investigations, and 2 were Fire Prevention, Inspections and/or trainings. They also attended 571.15 hours of training.

ITEM C. Attorney

Attorney Alfredo Estrada wished everyone a Merry Christmas. He advised the Board this was his fourth year as attorney for the Board of Safety and thanked everyone for their support.

THEREUPON, Board Members Mike O'Rourke

Mr. O'Rourke wished everyone safe travels and Happy Holidays.

THEREUPON, Business from the Floor NONE

THEREUPON, Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:37 p.m.

DAVID
SCHERERVILLE
SAFETY
A TRUE COPY

EENIGENBURG
BOARD OF
CHAIRMAN

RICHARD PIETRZAK
SCHERERVILLE BOARD OF
SAFETY VICE CHAIRMAN
A TRUE COPY