

TOWN OF SCHERERVILLE

SCHERERVILLE, INDIANA

BOARD OF SAFETY MEETING

May 2, 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, 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 Alfredo Estrada, Town Manager Jim Gorman, and Director of Operations Andy Hanson.

THEREUPON, Approval of the Minutes

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

THEREUPON, Correspondence

ITEM A. PD – Appreciation card from New Beginnings Clubhouse

Chief Sormaz informed the Board he had received a thank-you card from the New Beginnings Clubhouse thanking the PD for their services in learning about their program.

ITEM B. FD – Thank-you card from Highland Fire Department

Chief Patterson advised the Board he had received a thank-you card from the Highland Fire Department for their assistance during Highland’s Community Risk Reduction Event held on April 13, 2024. The letter, read by Chief Patterson, informed the Schererville Fire Department that 81 new smoke detectors were installed in 46 homes during the event. Chief Patterson informed the Board that in April, 2024, Highland had a fatal fire that occurred in their community. After the fire, the Highland Fire Department reached out to the surrounding communities that assisted them in striking the fire to see if they would assist them in the Community Risk Reduction Event. During the event, the firefighters went door-to-door in the subdivision where the fire occurred, explained to them what had transpired, and offered them the opportunity to have new smoke detectors installed in their homes.

THEREUPON, Old Business

ITEM A. PD – NONE

ITEM B. FD – NONE

THEREUPON, New Business

ITEM A. FD – Approval to hire 5 part-timers

Chief Patterson requested approval from the Board to hire 5 part-time employees to fill open slots:

- Brandon Newcomb – Firefighter/Paramedic
- Steven Paprocki – Firefighter/EMT
- Eric Porch – Firefighter/EMT
- Kyle Mergenthaler – Firefighter/EMT
- Jesus Loe – Paramedic

Motion made by Mr. Eenigenburg, seconded by Mr. Jaroszewski. Motion carries (4 – 0).

ITEM B. FD – IVFA Indiana Volunteer Firefighters Association to recognize
3 past Firefighters with Gold Cards

Chief Patterson disclosed to the Board that District 1 Chairman Marshall Neese, of the Indiana Volunteer Firefighters Association (IVFA), reached out to him in reference to 4 total retired members of the Schererville Fire Department who were to receive their 50 year Gold Cards. At this time Chairman Neese came forward and presented the three retired members present – Gerald Den Hartog, Edward Koch, and George Turoci – with their 50 year Gold Card, coin, and pin. Jim Vargo, who was unable to attend the meeting was also recognized.

THEREUPON, Reports

ITEM A. Fire Chief

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

For the month of January, 2024, the Schererville Fire Department performed 18 inspections, responded to 321 incidents of which 274 were EMS related, 28 were Fire related, 19 were Alarms/Investigations, and 0 were Fire Prevention, Inspections and/or trainings. They also attended 631.50 hours of training.

ITEM B. Police Chief

Chief Sormaz informed the Board that the annual Police Memorial would take place on May 17, 2024. The inspections would take place at 11 am in the Police parking lot with the ceremony to occur at 1 pm at the Schererville Town Hall. He further stated all the reports were in the packet.

For the month of March, 2024 the Patrol Division responded to 1,642 incidents and took 87 accident reports. There were 172 total arrests. The Patrol Division filed 186 charges of which 76 were Class A Misdemeanors, 30 were Class B Misdemeanors, 52 were Class C Misdemeanors, 1 Level 5 Felony, and 27 Level 6 Felonies. The Patrol Division served 112 total warrants. They performed 555 traffic stops resulting in 384 citations issued of which 102 were local ordinances and 282 were state infractions. 395 warnings were also issued. The Patrol Division performed 109 vehicle searches, of which 32 were K9 vehicle searches. There were 187 Proactive Patrols.

For the month of March, 2024, the Criminal Investigations Division (CID) filed 50 criminal charges which were the result of 23 cases. Of these 50 charges, 28 were felony, 20 were misdemeanor, and 2 were Federal. 6 were filed in the Schererville Town Court, 35 were filed in the Lake County Court and 7 were filed with the Lake County Juvenile Court. The CID is currently investigating 65 incidents for the month of March.

For the month of March, 2024, Schererville Police Officers attended 353 hours of training.

For the month of March, 2024, the Animal Control Division responded to 23 calls for service, 0 bite reports, and took in 3 animals.

For the month of April, 2024, the Animal Control Division responded to 41 calls for service, 1 bite report, and took in 6 animals.

ITEM C. Attorney – NONE

THEREUPON, Board Members Congratulations

Mr. Kouros congratulated the retired members of the Schererville Fire Department on the awards they received.

THEREUPON, Business from the Floor NONE

THEREUPON, Adjournment

There being no further business, Mr. Kouros made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Jaroszewski. Motion carries (4 – 0). The meeting was adjourned at 5:38 p.m.

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CHAIRMAN

GEORGE KOUROS
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