

TOWN OF SCHERERVILLE

SCHERERVILLE, INDIANA

BOARD OF SAFETY MEETING

December 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: Deputy Chief of Police Steven McNamara, Fire Chief Robert Patterson, Deputy Fire Chief David Meyer, and Recording Secretary Stephanie Bottiger. Absent: Police Chief Peter Sormaz. Also present: Attorney Alfredo Estrada, Town Manager James Gorman, Director of Operations Andrew Hansen, and Town Council President Thomas Schmitt.

THEREUPON, Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Jaroszewski made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 7, 2024, regular Public Meeting, seconded by Mr. Veitkus. Motion carries (5 – 0).

THEREUPON, Correspondence

ITEM A. FD – NONE

ITEM B. PD – NONE

THEREUPON, Old Business

ITEM A. FD – NONE

ITEM B. PD – NONE

THEREUPON, New Business

ITEM A. FD – Time Promotion Enrique Pulido

Chief Patterson requested approval from the Board for the time promotion of Enrique Pulido from Firefighter/EMT 2<sup>nd</sup> Class to Firefighter/EMT 1<sup>st</sup> Class. He was reviewed by his fellow officers with outstanding notes. Motion made by Mr. Jaroszewski, seconded by Mr. Veitkus. Motion passes (5 – 0).

ITEM B. PD – New Hire Process

Deputy Chief McNamara advised the Board the eligibility roster expired December 1, 2024. Deputy Chief McNamara requested approval from the Board to begin the process with Stanard & Associates to create a certified list. Once the list is completed, it will be submitted to the Board for approval. This falls under General Order 5.17. Motion made by Mr. Eenigenburg, seconded by Mr. Jaroszewski. Motion passes (5 – 0).

ITEM C. PD – Time Promotion for Brett Bandstra #230

Deputy Chief McNamara requested approval from the Board for the time promotion of Officer Brett Bandstra, badge #230, whom started with the department December 27, 2023, and was completing his Probationary year. Deputy Chief McNamara advised the Board Officer Bandstra had completed all necessary requirements of his Probationary period to move up to 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Patrolman, effective December 23, 2024. Written communication was received from both his immediate Supervisor and the Patrol Commander both of whom recommended his promotion to 3<sup>rd</sup> Class Patrolman. Motion made by Mr. Jaroszewski. Mr. Veitkus asked for clarification on which class Officer Bandstra was moving to, to which Deputy Chief McNamara replied Probationary to 3<sup>rd</sup> Class. Motion was then seconded by Mr. Veitkus. Motion passes (5 – 0).

THEREUPON, Reports

ITEM A. Police Chief

Deputy Chief McNamara made the Board aware that Chief Sormaz received a resignation letter from Corporal Alvarez on November 22, 2024. His last day working will be December 6, 2024 with his final paycheck being December 13, 2024. Deputy Chief McNamara advised the Board Corporal Alvarez served with the Department for nine years and he wished him well in the next chapter of his life. Deputy Chief McNamara requested the approval of the Board to accept Corporal Alvarez's resignation letter. Deputy Chief McNamara also made it known that Corporal Alvarez was a K9 handler and is also asking for the approval of the Board for Chief Sormaz to be given the authority to transfer ownership of K9 Hawk from the Town of Schererville to Corporal Alvarez. Motion made by Mr. Jaroszewski, seconded by Mr. Veitkus. Motion passes (5 – 0).

For the month of October, 2024, the Patrol Division reports were unavailable.

For the month of October, 2024, the Criminal Investigations Division (CID) filed 60 criminal charges which were the result of 18 cases. Of these charges, 41 were felony and 19 were misdemeanor. 1 was filed in the Schererville Town Court, 57 were filed in Lake County court, and 2 were filed in Lake County Juvenile Court. There are 63 incidents being handled by the CID for the month of October.

For the month of November, 2024, Schererville Police Officers attended 282.5 hours of training.

For the month of September, 2024, the Animal Control Division had 45 calls for service, 1 bite report and took in 1 animal.

For the month of October, 2024, the Animal Control Division had 29 calls for service, 2 bite reports and took in 7 animals.

ITEM B. Fire Chief

Fire Chief Patterson informed the Board that Saturday, December 7, 2024, the Fire Department would be hosting their annual food drive from 9am to 1pm in the Strack and Vantil parking lot. The proceeds of the drive would go to the St. John Township Center.

For the month of November, 2024, the Schererville Fire Department performed 22 inspections, responded to 356 incidents of which 307 were EMS related, 16 were Fire related, 25 were Alarms/Investigations, and 8 were Fire Prevention, Inspection and/or training. They also attended 396 hours of training.

ITEM C. Attorney – January 2025 Meeting

Attorney Estrada advised the Board that during the study session, Board members contemplated moving the January 2025 meeting from January 2, 2025, to January 9, 2025. Attorney Estrada felt there needed to be a motion to move the meeting. Motion made by Mr. Jaroszewski, seconded by Mr. Veitkus. Motion passes (5 – 0).

THEREUPON, Board Members

Eric Graf

Chairman Graf requested an update from Deputy Chief McNamara in reference to the Emergency Hire Process. Deputy Chief McNamara advised the Board he had been contacted by approximately ten people asking questions. As of yet, the Department has not received any applications. He went on to add that once the Department began receiving applications, they would keep the Board informed as to dates for interviews. They had received a couple of applications, but those individuals were not eligible. The deadline for applications to be submitted is December 20, 2024.

THEREUPON, Business from the Floor

NONE

THEREUPON, Adjournment

There being no further business, Mr. Eenigenburg made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Jaroszewski. Motion carries (5 – 0). The meeting was adjourned at 5:39 p.m.

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