The Regular Town Council Meeting of the Town of Schererville, IN was called to order by President Thomas Schmitt at 7:12 p.m. in the Schererville Town Hall, 10 E. Joliet Street Schererville, IN.

Attendance was taken with the following Council Members present: Caleb S. Johnson, Kevin Connelly, Robin Arvanitis and Thomas Schmitt. Council Member absent: Rob Guetzloff. Staff members present: Attorney David Austgen, Fire Chief Robert Patterson, Police Chief Pete Sormaz, Deputy Police Chief Steve McNamara, Park Superintendent John Novacich, IT Robbie Hansen, Director of Public Works Chad Nondorf, Director of Operations Andy Hansen, Town Manager Jim Gorman, Clerk-Treasurer Michael Troxell and Recording Secretary Robin Thiel.

THEREUPON, Approval of the minutes. Mr. Connelly made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 9, 2023 Public Meeting, seconded by Mr. Johnson. All in favor (4-0).

THEREUPON, Claims

A. APV #110112 - APV #110613 on the General Docket, Totaling $3,619,972.91
B. APV #110121 - APV #110609 on the MVH Docket, Totaling $1,025,524.96
C. APV #110155 - APV #110531 on the Payroll Docket, Totaling $1,710,747.43
D. Various Funds, First National Bank of Omaha, Credit Card Charges, $19,696.80
E. Various Funds, Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Vehicle Lease, $3,346.64
F. Various Funds, Austgen Kuiper Jasaitis, August Legal, $10,308.34
G. Ambulance Fund, E-Services Technology, Various Invoices, $30.00
H. Public Safety Fund, Methodist Hospital, EMT-Paramedic Program Installation Payment, $4,100.00
I. Various Funds, Amazon, Prime Membership Renewal, $1,299.00
J. ARPA Fund, Quality Mechanical, Payment #7 HVAC, $48,345.50
K. Various Funds, Colby & Co., Inv. #CC112, $5,847.00
L. Park Bond 2018 Fund, DLZ LLC, Pymt. #16-Pennsy Greenway, Phase IV, Invoice #706019, $3,314.36
M. General Fund - Police, Rothschild Insurance Agency, Various Invoices, $781.00
N. General Fund - Police, Governmental Interinsurance Exchange, Invoice #2023080012, $2,080.75
O. Various Funds, Bank of America, Principal & Interest Due, $166,358.83
P. Various Funds, Auto-Wares, Parts, $13,806.97
Q. Various Funds, Menards, Supplies, $2,720.26
R. Park Non-Reverting Fund, Ideal Charter, Bus Trips, $5,789.90

Mr. Johnson made a motion to accept the claims as presented, seconded by Mrs. Arvanitis. All in favor (4-0).

THEREUPON, Correspondence NONE

THEREUPON, Reports

Mr. Novacich stated that they have two events this weekend at Redar Park, one is Mr. Skellington's Party in the park at 5:00 - 10:00 p.m., and on Saturday they have their Country Affair combined with the Corn Roast that was rescheduled from July, so it is now the Schererville Country Corn Roast Affair 12:00 - 7:00 p.m.

THEREUPON, Public Comments Regarding Agenda Items NONE

THEREUPON, Old Business

ITEM A. Request to Access Town Property to Repair Material Containment Wall behind Smith Concrete

Petitioner: Rich Rueth, Target Rentals
Location: 1001 US Hwy 41
(Deferred from June 14, 2023, July 12, 2023 and August 9, 2023 meetings)

Mr. Gorman stated that this is Town property that Mr. Rueth would like to enter onto to repair a containment wall that's been there around twenty years. He stated that part of it has fallen over so Mr. Rueth would like to access our property to do some maintenance on that wall. Mr. Rueth could not be here tonight but he does have a representative here, Mr. Volkmann. Mr. Gorman stated that they do have an agreement that Mr. Austgen created and both parties have agreed to that agreement.

Mr. Schmitt stated that he thinks the biggest hesitation on this the last couple of months has been the contract that had to be written up by Mr. Austgen to allow Mr. Rueth to come on our Town property and do the work to fix the wall. Mr. Schmitt stated that he understands that in the agreement we have an amount that needs to be paid by Mr. Rueth for the legal expense that was involved.

Mr. Gorman stated that they have an agreement with a maximum of two thousand dollars. Mr. Gorman stated that the final amount is $1,487.50, and the petitioner agreed to that.

Mrs. Arvanitis made a motion to approve request to access Town property to repair material containment wall behind Smith's Concrete, and to enter into the agreement that has been discussed. The petitioner is Rich Rueth, Target Rentals location 1001 U.S. Highway 41, the amount Mr. Rueth has to pay for legal fees is $1,487.50, seconded by Mr. Connelly.

Mr. Schmitt asked Mr. Troxell for a roll call vote:
Mr. Johnson - No; Mr. Connelly - Yes; Mrs. Arvanitis - Yes; Mr. Schmitt - Yes. Motion passed (3-1).

THEREUPON, New Business

ITEM A. Ord. #1995, An Ordinance Establishing a Current Travel Policy for the Town of Schererville, Lake County, Indiana, Replacing all Existing Ordinances, Resolutions And Policies or Parts Thereof, Including Ordinance No. 1515, in Conflict Herewith, and all Matters Related Thereto.

Mr. Gorman stated that they recently discovered that this Ordinance has a little bit of verbiage that does not make sense. Mr. Gorman stated he thinks the Council should defer this until next month.

Mr. Johnson made a motion to defer Ordinance #1995 until next month's meeting, seconded by Mr. Connelly. All in favor (4-0).

ITEM B. PUBLIC HEARING

Public Hearing on Proposed 2024 Town Budget Ordinance No. 1996 - Review and discuss **(First Reading)**.

Mr. Troxell stated that this is the notice to taxpayers regarding the 2024 proposed budget. Mr. Troxell stated that this is the first of three hearings that will be held. He stated that it is a public hearing and citizens will be given the opportunity to speak. Mr. Troxell stated that this meeting notice needed to be submitted through the State Gateway program at least 10 days prior to tonight's meeting, it was submitted on Thursday, August 31, 2023.

OPEN TO THE FLOOR FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS
NO COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR
CLOSED TO THE FLOOR FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Troxell stated that the next scheduled time for adoption of this proposed would be Wednesday, October 11, 2023 and the next meeting would be when we receive the notification from the Department of Local Government Finance, this would be towards the end of the year.

Mr. Connelly made a motion to approve Ordinance #1996 on first reading, seconded by Mr. Johnson. All in favor (4-0).

ITEM C. Consider Variance of Use to Allow a Drive-Thru Lane Within the U.S. 41 Commercial Corridor Overlay District

Board of Zoning Case #23-8-12
Petitioner(s): Boulevard Square, LLC - Al Krygier (Stan's Donuts)
Location: 1020 U.S. Hwy 41 - Boulevard Square Planned Unit Development
BZA Favorable Recommendation 4-0

Mr. Gorman stated that this is a drive-thru request from Stan's Donuts that came with a favorable recommendation from the BZA. He stated that the building is located in the northeast corner of the parking lot of the original Menards Complex. He stated that part of that development had a sidewalk plan and that will be finished when this project is finished. Mr. Gorman stated that part of their plan is to put sidewalks in all along Willowbrook and then all along Eagle Ridge on the west side of the property. Mr. Gorman stated that the Town has a sidewalk connectivity project going on there shortly.

Mr. Connelly made a motion to approve BZA Case #23-8-12 including all Findings of Fact, seconded by Mrs. Arvanitis. All in favor (4-0).

ITEM D. Consider Donation to Schererville Baseball League ($855.36)

Mr. Gorman stated that the Schererville baseball 10U, Schererville Shock had approached the Town and asked if they had any pins we purchased probably fifteen years ago. He stated that we did not have any so the Schererville Baseball went and purchased their own because they had a pin swap program with all of the other teams. Mr. Gorman stated that they purchased 400 pins with the Schererville logo on it to represent our Town and they would like us to make a donation to pay for those pins. Mr. Gorman stated this came with a favorable recommendation from the Donation Committee.

Mrs. Arvanitis made a motion to approve the donation to the Schererville Baseball League for $855.36, seconded by Mr. Johnson. All in favor (4-0).

ITEM E. Consider Donation to Logan's Love ($1,250.00)

Mr. Gorman stated that Logan's Love is seeking donations to purchase Ben's blue bags to go inside every squad car in the Tri-Town area. He stated that they had their walk last weekend and it was very successful, they ended up surpassing that amount to put a bag in every squad car in Dyer, St. John and Schererville. Mr.

Gorman stated that their new goal is to equip every squad car in Lake County, so they are looking for a donation to keep that going.

Nicole Reveliotis, 1325 Deer Creek Drive Dyer, and Georgianne Glavas, 1727 Chelsea Street, Schererville. Nicole stated she wanted to thank everyone that came out and Schererville Parks for allowing them to have it there. She thanked the Schererville Fire Department and Schererville Police Department. She stated that they started this Foundation for special needs children and they came up with this idea for the Ben's blue bags and put them in all of the squad cars. She stated that it has sensory items and comes with a great training system.

Chief Sormaz stated that he thinks this is a great cause, this has sensory items for autistic children. He stated he feels this will definitely benefit the officers having that tool in their car when they come across that situation. Nicole Reveliotis stated that they also added communication devices in them as well because a lot of children are non-verbal.

Mr. Johnson made a motion to donate $1,250.00 to Logan's Love, seconded by Mr. Connelly. All in favor (4-0).

ITEM F. Consider September 17 to September 23, 2023 as *Constitution Week* in the Town of Schererville

Mr. Schmitt read the proclamation in its entirety. Mr. Connelly made a motion to approve, seconded by Mrs. Arvanitis. All in favor (4-0).

ITEM G. Consider September 18 to September 24, 2023 as *National Rail Safety Week* in the Town of Schererville.

Mr. Schmitt read the proclamation in its entirety. Mr. Connelly made a motion to approve, seconded by Mrs. Arvanitis. All in favor (4-0).

ITEM H. Consider Acceptance of Donations

Mr. Troxell read into the record the donations for August 2023.

Mrs. Arvanitis made a motion to accept the donations as read, seconded by Mr. Connelly. All in favor (4-0).

Mr. Schmitt asked Mr. Nondorf to give a brief update on the culvert work that is going on by the Post Office.

Mr. Nondorf stated that there is 18 total sections of ten by seven feet concrete box culvert going to be installed underneath Eagle Ridge Drive. He stated that part of this work the water main and the sanitary force main from the lift station over near Giuseppe's, portions of that will be replaced tonight. He stated that they are probably two weeks out before they can finish the box culvert work. Mr. Nondorf stated that Rieth Riley will be their small patch contractor to get the road paved and Public Works will perform the restoration.

THEREUPON, Business from the floor

Mr. Giovanni Veitkus, 2914 Morningside Drive, Crown Point, IN. Mr. Veitkus stated that he is proud to say and claim that he's

a registered Republican and have voted Republican since the day he achieved that honor when he turned 18. He stated that ignorance of the law is not a valid defense, there may be some here today that may argue in a court of law, however he found in his training as a duly sworn officer of the law both in the public and private sector that that statement be true and valid. Mr. Veitkus stated he would like to read from the Schererville Indiana Code of Ordinances, section 6-20, keeping of animals classified as farm animals. He stated that the Ordinance states the keeping of animals classified as farm animals that no person shall possess or have custody on his premises any animal classified as a farm animal such as but not limited to horses, pigs, goats and chickens. No person shall keep or permit to be kept any farm animal as a pet. He stated that his wife Ashley ran in the Republican Primary this year and while canvassing for his wife it was brought to their attention that there were farm animals on the property of a council member. Mr. Veitkus asked Councilman Johnson if this is true. Mr. Johnson stated yes it is. Mr. Veitkus stated that it was brought to their attention during the same time that the Code Enforcement Officer for this Town was dispatched at the request of a member of this Council to a home of a resident in this Town, a taxpayer, for the sole purpose of citing and advising that family that they must do away with their possession of farm animals. Mr. Veitkus asked if he is supposed to believe that the Chairman of the Republican Party of the township and in this district is someone who believes that the law is for thee and not for me. He asked if we are to believe that we raise our children to harbor virtue, morality and conservatism so our elected leader can sit in positions of authority like a Pontius Pilate and stand judgment over those who are their constituents. He stated he does not claim to be perfect, he has his faults, but he would be darned to sit in a position of authority where I represent the majority of individuals and cast judgment and integrity on one hand and hold selfishness and dishonesty in the other.

Cathy Lareau, St. John Township Trustee, stated he is here with Steve Bramer, the DAV Chapter 17 commander and Bob Carnegie the DAV state commander. She stated that this coming Saturday at 1:30 p.m. at Dyer Central Park they are having a dedication to the Woody Williams Foundation Gold Star Families Memorial. She stated that this Gold Star Family Memorial, there is only 126 in the State and the closest one to here is in Indianapolis.

Mr. Bob Carnegie said that Woody Williams is the last surviving Medal of Honor winner from World War II, he showed up in Dyer when they started this Memorial several years ago, but since has passed. Mr. Carnegie told how Woody Williams received his Medal of Honor. He stated that these monuments that are going up are to recognize the fallen heroes all over the United States that represented our Country.

Ms. Lareau stated they are here to thank the Council for their support with the DAV walk. She stated that the Town was wonderful to work with. She stated that they had 125 people that registered for the DAV walk. She stated that they are going to do this again in the Town next year. Mr. Bramer presented the Town Council with an award for their unwavering support and their dedicated volunteerism on August 2023 DAV 17 walk. The award states they are so grateful for their (Council) commitment to their mission and thanked the Council for making it possible. Mr. Carnegie stated that DAV means Disabled American Veterans and to be a part of the DAV you have to have something that happened to you while you were serving that caused you to have some type of a

disability. He stated that in the State of Indiana there are more than 14,000 members to the DAV.

Meeting adjourned.

THOMAS SCHMITT
TOWN COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Michael A. Troxell, IAMC, CMC, CPFIM, CMO
TOWN CLERK-TREASURER

A TRUE COPY

TOWN OF SCHERERVILLE
SEAL
LAKE COUNTY, INDIANA