A Special Town Council Meeting of the Town of Schererville, IN was called to order by President Thomas Schmitt at 5:37 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 (Virtual), Kevin Connelly, Robin Arvanitis, Rob Guetzloff, and Thomas Schmitt. Staff members present: Attorney David Austgen, Fire Chief Robert Patterson, Police Chief Pete Sormaz, 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, Reports

Mr. Connelly stated that when we get to the board appointments, that we read and vote on each one separately.

Mr. Troxell stated he has a report on encumbrances. He stated for the encumbrances we're carrying over purchase orders into the 2024 year, State Board requires that we report this number. That number is $3,388,299.30. He stated that compared to what we encumbered last year, it's a little bit higher, last year we encumbered $2,968,032.80. It's a difference around $420,500 and that difference basically is some of the new vehicles that we purchased. Mr. Troxell stated that we have some purchase orders for the vehicles and also accessories that are being carried over into the new year.

THEREUPON, Public Comments Regarding Agenda Items NONE

THEREUPON, Old Business NONE

THEREUPON, New Business

ITEM A. Resolution #2023-18, A Resolution to Transfer Funds within A Category of Appropriations

Mr. Troxell explained the Transfer of Funds. Mr. Connelly made a motion to approve Resolution #2023-18, seconded by Mrs. Arvanitis. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM B. Consider Approval to Purchase Property Located at 403 Junction Avenue, Schererville, IN from the Stephen J. Orban and Bernadine D. Orban Revocable Family Trust in The amount of $288,100.00 and to Authorize the Town Manager, Director of Operations, Clerk-Treasurer and Town Attorney to Finalize Execution of Documents **(Kennedy Avenue Extension)**

Mr. Gorman stated that this is a small 1 acre parcel at the corner of Junction and Kennedy Avenue. He stated that it's part of phase two of the Kennedy Avenue Expansion Project. He stated that this entire property is needed for the project. Mr. Gorman had this up on the projection screen and explained it to the Council.

Mr. Guetzloff made a motion to approve the purchase of property located at 403 Junction Avenue, seconded by Mrs. Arvanitis. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM C. Consider Approval to Purchase Property Located at 344 Kennedy Avenue, Schererville, IN from the Clifford J. Purnell, Sr. in the amount of $303,800.00 and to Authorize the Town Manager, Director Operations, Clerk-Treasurer and Town Attorney to Finalize Execution of Documents **(Kennedy Avenue Extension)**

Mr. Gorman explained to the Council where this property is, on the projection screen.

Mr. Guetzloff made a motion to purchase property at 344 Kennedy Avenue, seconded by Mrs. Arvanitis. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM D. Election of Officers/Boards & Commission Appointments

Mrs. Arvanitis stated she will read these as all in one motion.

Mr. Connelly restated that he prefer that they be read individually and voted on individually. He stated for the record, he doesn't know who's being nominated and he may not be in favor of some.

Mr. Schmitt stated advised Mr. Connelly that he will be able to state which ones you're not okay with.

Mrs. Arvanitis stated her motion is to appoint the following 2024 Appointments:

Town Council President - Tom Schmitt
Town Council Vice President - Rob Guetzloff
Utility Board President - Robin Arvanitis
Utility Board Vice President - Rob Guetzloff
Redevelopment Commission President - Kevin Connelly
Redevelopment Commission Vice President - Tom Schmitt
Redevelopment Commission Non-Voting Member
To be approved by Lake Central School Board - Nicki Kelly
Waterworks Appointment (R)- 3 year term - Kevin Connelly
Waterworks President - Rob Guetzloff
Waterworks Vice President - Robin Arvanitis
Attorney - Town; Redevelopment Commission, Waterworks Board; Utility Board; Town Council; EDC; and Town Court - Attorney Austgen
Attorney - Plan Commission; Board of Zoning Appeals; And Park Board - Alfredo Estrada - BCC
Attorney - Board of Safety - Alfredo Estrada - Bcc
Town Engineer - NIES Engineering
Plan Commission Appt. (D) 4 year term - Tom Kouros
Plan Commission Staff Members Appt.(1)- 1 year term - Tom Anderson
Plan Commission Staff Members Appt. (2) - 1 year term - Chris Rak
Plan Commission Staff Members Appt. (3) - 1 year term - Myles Long
BZA Appt. - Non-Plan Commission Member 4 year term - Rich Calinski
BZA Resignation Appt. - a Non Plan Commission Member
Term ending 12/31/2024 - Mike O'Rourke
Park Board Appt. (D) - 4 year term - Jennefer Wilson
Board of Safety Appt. (D) - 3 year term - George Kouros
Board of Safety Appt. (D) - 3 year term - Dave Jaroszewski
Board of Safety Resignation Appt.(R) term ending 12/31/2024 Giovanni Veitkus
Southcom PSAP Executive Board Member - 1 year term - Jim Gorman
Liaison to Park Board: Park Foundation; Park Dept.- Robin Arvanitis
Liaison to Public Works - Tom Schmitt
Liaison to Board of Safety (Fire & Police) - Tom Schmitt
Liaison to Wastewater Treatment Plant - Caleb Johnson
Liaison to Plan Commission; Board of Zoning Appeals - Robin Arvanitis
Northwestern Indiana Regional Planning Commission (NIRPC) Appt. - Tom Schmitt
Lake County Solid Waste Management District Appt. - Robin Arvanitis
Liaison to Lake Central School Board - Mike Troxell/Office

Liaison to Lake County Drainage Board - Rob Guetzloff
Liaison to Schererville Chamber of Commerce - Mike Troxell/Office

Mr. Schmitt stated we have a motion, is there a second. Mr. Guetzloff seconded.

Mr. Schmitt asked Mr. Troxell to call the roll:

Mr. Connelly stated that he will be forced to vote no specifically to the Board of Safety Appointments, he will be voting against the two Democrat Appointments and he has a nominee for the Republican Appointment.

Mr. Johnson stated he will be voting no due to several of the appointments, specifically to the appointment for Liaison for the Board of Zoning Appeals and the Plan Commission. Robin Arvanitis was the Liaison for those positions last year and hadn't attended even one meeting. Mr. Johnson stated he attended all of those, as far as he can remember. Mr. Johnson stated, also the appointment to the Park Board, Jen Wilson, she was my opponent in the general election and he's assuming that's just a political appointment just to try and get her some publicity. He stated that for the Board of Safety Appointment, Giovanni Veitkus, he is the husband of my opponent in the primary. Mr. Johnson stated that he's not a true republican and should not be appointment in a position without Republicans input.

Mrs. Arvanitis - Yes; Mr. Guetzloff - Yes; Mr. Schmitt - Yes. Motion Carries (3-2) Motion technically is (4-1)

THEREUPON, Business from the floor

Mr. Anthony Ferraro, 1429 St. Andrews Drive, Schererville stated that he has been a resident for 12 years. He stated what he just witnessed in that last vote, frankly was the most disgusting display of partisan politics over Public Safety that I ever thought I may not live to see. He stated as a member of this community, you should be ashamed of yourself.

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