The Regular Town Council Meeting of the Town of Schererville, IN was called to order by President Robin Arvanitis at 6:49 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, Thomas Schmitt, Rob Guetzloff and Robin Arvanitis. Staff members present: Attorney David Austgen, Fire Chief Robert Patterson, Police Chief Pete Sormaz, IT AJ Garcia, Park Superintendent Irene Mireles, Town Engineer, Neil Simstad, Director of Public Works Chad Nondorf, Director of Operations Andy Hansen, Town Manager Jim Gorman. Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Kristie Klein and Recording Secretary Robin Thiel.

THEREUPON, Approval of the minutes. Mr. Guetzloff made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 8, 2026 Public Meeting, seconded by Mr. Johnson. All in favor (5-0).

THEREUPON, Claims

A. APV #124570-APV #125047 on the General Docket, Totaling $2,279,462.33
B. APV #124605-APV #125047 on the MVH Docket, Totaling $335,622.57
C. APV #124650-APV #124916 on the Payroll Docket, Totaling $1,285,370.74
D. Various Funds, First National Bank of Omaha, Credit Card Charges, $6,605.37
E. Various Funds, Austgen Kuiper Jasaitis, April Legal, $9,065.67
F. 2016 Taxable G.O. Bond Debt Svc. Fund, Argent Institutional Trust, Principal & Interest Due, $113,850.00
G. Park & Recreation Fund, Dell Computers, Computer, $1,359.17
H. Ambulance Fund, Blue & Co., Report Prep, $5,700.00
I. Various Funds, Auto Wares, Parts, $13,313.07
J. Various Funds, Unifirst, Supplies, $1,638.43
K. Various Funds, Grainger, Parts, $3,286.54
L. Park Non-Reverting Fund, Gordon Food Service, Program Supplies, $314.31
M. Various Funds, Menards, Parts & Supplies, $6,199.78
N. Various Funds, Napa, Parts, $42.32
O. MVH Fund, Elzinga Masonry, Sign Repair, $5,990.00
P. General Fund – Police, Hobart Animal Clinic, Vet Bill, $3,186.44
Q. Park & Recreation Fund, Indiana Department of Workforce Development, Various Claims, $2,289.16

Mr. Guetzloff made a motion to accept the claims as presented, seconded by Mr. Schmitt. All in favor (5-0).

THEREUPON, Correspondence NONE

THEREUPON, Reports

Mr. Hansen stated that the Kennedy Avenue project is moving along, a lot of utility work going on currently. He stated that right after Memorial Day, Junction Avenue will

likely be closed from the day after Memorial Day to right before the 4th of July. This will start the transition work for moving Junction Avenue. He stated that it will go back to the old Junction Avenue when we switch it back, but then it will close again at a later time. Mr. Hansen stated they will notify the media regarding the closure; it will also be on the Town website.

Mr. Gorman stated he wanted to bring everyone up to date on the Central Fire Station. He stated that they are working with the architect, he just actually got an email from him the other day that they should be completing the engineering as well as the structure for that project. Mr. Gorman stated that the finish date is May 28th and once they get all of that stuff, he is going to present that to the Plan Commission for secondary approval. Once that is completed and approved, then they start going into the bid process. He stated that we are under contract with the architect to get the bidding documents prepared.

THEREUPON, Public Comments Regarding Agenda Items

Mr. Collin Zackavec, stated that he is part of the executive order for the Schererville Firefighters Union Local 4279. He stated that he would like to thank the Council for making progress in regards to the new Fire Station for the Schererville Fire Department. As a Department and Union, they recognize that a new station is needed and they appreciate the Town's willingness to invest in the future of public safety infrastructure. Mr. Zackavec stated that at the same time, they believe it is important that conversations continue regarding public safety, including staffing and operational readiness as well. He stated that a Fire Station is part of the emergency response system, but personnel, equipment and infrastructure must all work together to provide the level of service our residents expect and deserve. He stated that their hope is simply that as progress continues towards a Fie Station, the need for staffing, improvements and long-term operational sustainability remains part of the conversation moving forward. All of their Firefighters at this department are proud to serve this community and each and every day as we look forward to continuing to work collaboratively towards a solution that supports the public safety and camaraderie.

THEREUPON, Presentation

Abigail Cohs, Schererville, stated that she has lived in Schererville for most of her life and for the past few years she started driving. She stated that she would like to draw a little bit of attention to overall road safety today. She stated that she would like to personally draw attention to a road that she drives every single morning and once or twice at night, and that is Avenue H. She stated that it is not a very main road, but there are some problems with it. Specifically, there is a very large stretch of road near the intersection

with Kennedy Avenue where there is a very large problem with speeding. She stated she is often on that road and the speed limit is 35 mph and people will be going 55 mph and also pushing you while you are going the speed limit. Ms. Cohs stated there is also the problem of a lot of deer and wild animals cross that road. She stated that she personally has not seen any road signs saying that there is a deer crossing or any type of animals. She stated she would like to see a bit more monitoring of speed limits or preventive tactics like perhaps adding solar powered radar speed signs or rumble strips on the road.

Mr. Schmitt asked Mr. Nondorf and Mr. Hanson to look into some of those suggestions that she had for Avenue H. Mr. Hansen stated that a portion of that road is not actually Schererville's, so they will have to work with Griffith on that Avenue H.

THEREUPON, Old Business NONE

THEREUPON, New Business

ITEM A. Ord. No. 2046, An Ordinance Amending the Schedule of Towing and Other Fees to be Charged and Collected for Such Services by the Schererville Metropolitan Police Department, repealing Town Ordinances No. 897, No. 1059, No. 1203, No. 1487, No. 1636, No. 1687 and No. 1992, in Conflict Herewith, and all Matters Related Hereto.

Chief Sormaz stated that over the past several months, he, Andy Hansen, Jim Gorman and staff have been working on updating a lot of the ordinances that haven't ben updated over several years and one in particular was the tow fee schedule. He stated that after evaluating the tow fee schedule and consulting with our towing companies it was determined that the existing rates no longer reflect the operational cost of the tow firm. Chief Sormaz stated that they are suggesting an increase for the tow rates that were presented to the Town Council and that would reflect the operating cost for the Town to provide the consistent service that we need for emergency service and non-emergency services.

Mr. Johnson asked Chief Sormaz what the tow rate increase is that is being recommended. Chief stated that there were several different categories, the current rate for night and daytime were $185.00 and the new rate is $250.00.

Mr. Johnson made a motion to approve on first reading, Ordinance No. 2046, seconded by Mr. Schmitt. All in favor (5-0).

Mr. Johnson made a motion to adopt Ordinance No. 2046, seconded by Mr. Schmitt. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM B. Ord. No. 2047, An Ordinance Repealing Town Solicitor Regulations Town Ordinance No. 2008 and Town Ordinance No. 2045, Both Being Ordinances Establishing Replacement and Current Regulations for Licensing of Solicitors in the Town of Schererville, Lake County, Indiana, Repealing All Ordinances, in Conflict Herewith, and All Matters Related Thereto

Mr. Gorman stated that this modifies our current Ordinance to simplify the paperwork that's involved for the Town and modifies the application. He stated that it allows for profits and for nonprofits solicitors to go door to door as long as they are registered with the Town. Mr. Gorman stated that as part of that process, each solicitor will have an ID that would be given to them through the Police Department. He stated that a solicitor would have to go through a background check, they will have to pay the application fee and they'd also have to pay the licensing fee. Mr. Gorman stated that our old ordinance was just for nonprofits. He stated that they are going to put something in our newsletter as well as on our website. He stated that this will notify our residents that they may be seeing solicitors come around, because that is their right.

Mr. Johnson asked what if they do not have an ID, can they report them to the Police. Mr. Gorman stated absolutely, they would encourage that.

Mr. Connelly made a motion to approve Ord. No. 2047 on first reading, seconded by Mr. Johnson. All in favor (5-0).

Mr. Connelly made a motion to adopt Ord. No. 2047, seconded by Mr. Schmitt. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM C. Res. No. 2026-2, A Resolution Authorizing and Approving Entry into a Joint Interlocal Cooperation Agreement Pertaining to the Tri-Town Safety Village, Inc. Entity, and all Matters Related Thereto

Mr. Gorman stated that this is an interlocal agreement with the Town of Schererville, the Town of St. John and the Town of Dyer, related to the Safety Village. He stated that there has been an agreement that has been in place for a couple decades, so this would bring everything back into compliance. He stated it dictates ownership and all of the rules to go along with it. He stated that they also went through the bylaws process, that is done internally within the executive board of the Safety Village, and they also passed those. Mr. Gorman stated that the Town of Dyer has already approved it, so if it gets passed here tonight, then it will get passed on to St. John for them to approve it at a public meeting.

Mr. Schmitt made a motion to approve Res. No. 2026-2, seconded by Mr. Connelly. Motion passes (4-0-1) Mr. Johnson abstained.

ITEM D. Res. No. 2026-3, A Resolution Amending the Town Of Schererville Fire Department Hiring Procedure to Require Entry and Execution of a Firefighter Turnout Gear Loan and Reimbursement Agreement as a Condition Of Employment as a Member of the Town Fire Department, And all Matters Related Thereto. **(From Board of Safety Agenda)**

Fire Chief Patterson stated that they have the Paramedic reimbursement program for the paramedic school. He stated that they put this Firefighter Turnout Gear Loan and Reimbursement Agreement together. He stated it's another way of protecting our investment into the employees. Chief Patterson stated that this is following the same exact rules as the paramedic reimbursement program.

Mr. Connelly made a motion to approve Res. No. 2026-3, seconded by Mr. Johnson. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM E. Consider Acceptance of Tow Service Provider Agreement. Tow Company shall furnish all Service labor, equipment, facilities, and materials for Towing or Tow related services at the request of The Town of Schererville

Chief Sormaz stated that as part of an overall review of towing fees and operational procedures, they identified the need to update our ordinance and add an agreement to conform to new requirements under Indiana code. The department currently operates under an ordinance that provides general expectations. He stated that Indiana code currently establishes the mandatory requirements for written towing policies and contracts between towing companies and law enforcement agencies entered into after June 30, 2025. Its purpose is to promote transparency, consistency and consumer protection by requiring towing agreements to clearly define important operational and financial terms, including service rates, storage fees, response times, equipment standards, and vehicle owner access rights. Chief Sormaz stated, additionally, it gives law enforcement agencies authority to suspend or remove towing companies that violate the agreement. With updating the ordinance and adding the agreement we are in line with daily operations and Indiana code.

Mr. Johnson asked Chief Sormaz who determines who the Tow Service Provider is. Chief Sormaz stated that is recommended to the Town Council. Currently they have four tow service providers. He stated they are not adding or subtracting any of them right now. It's an enhancement to what is going on now, he stated that Indiana Code in 2025 requires that they have a detailed explanation of several different categories.

Mr. Johnson made a motion to accept the Tow Service Provider Agreement as explained by Chief Sormaz, seconded by Mrs. Arvanitis. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM F. Consider Acceptance of AT&T Enterprises, LLC Service Provider Agreement. An Enhanced 9-1-1 ("E 9-1-1") Service Provisioned by AT&T that Utilizes AT&T Premises to House Certain E 9-1-1 Call Handling Equipment for Purposes of Receiving and Transporting E 9-1-1 Calls from Within a Predetermined Service Area to Authorize Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPS) Identified by Southcom Schererville Police Department.

Mr. Gorman stated that this agreement with AT&T is a 5-year agreement for 911 telephone services at our dispatch center, Southcom. He stated that it provides four stations at our public safety answering point. The amount is $20,000.00, for new networking equipment, computers, and installation upfront and then $8.800.00 monthly for five years. He stated that our current contract is $7,450.00 a month.

Mr. Schmitt made a motion to consider acceptance of AT&T Enterprises, LLC Service Provider Agreement, seconded by Mr. Guetzloff. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM G. Authorize the Town Manager, Director of Operations, Clerk-Treasurer and Architect to Work on the Preparation of the Bid Package for the Central Fire Station Project

Mr. Connelly stated that Mr. Gorman had reported that this process is already in the works, working with architects for the Central Fire Station, so therefore it doesn't require a vote.

Mr. Connelly stated that with that being said, he will make a motion to table this item, seconded by Mr. Guetzloff. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM H. Authorize the Clerk-Treasurer to Explore Options for Financing the Central Fire Station Project

Mr. Gorman stated that this is typical for any project, to seek financial choices for us on how we're going to finance the building of the Fire Station. He stated that this will basically authorize staff and Clerk-Treasurer to look for some of that financing through our bond council and through our financial adviser that we use with the Town, as well as our Town Attorney.

Mr. Guetzloff made a motion to Authorize the Clerk-Treasurer to explore options for Financing the Central Fire Station Project, seconded by Mr. Schmitt.

Mr. Johnson stated that he wants to make clear just for everybody that's listening or going to listen in the future. This is not in opposition to the Fire Department or Public Safety, this is about whether or not it is prudent for this Town Council to spend $10 million or potentially more than $10 million on a building, a central fire station, a new central fire station to replace the existing central fire station. Mr. Johnson stated that he is of the opinion, it's his opinion only, not the rest of the Town Council, he is not speaking for them. He stated he is of the opinion that replacing our current central fire station with a new central fire station just down the road is only marginally necessary. It's only needed for a couple of little things. Yes, our old fire station is old and yes, our old fire station might need some updating or some work on the air conditioning or things that might be out of date. Yes, it is further down the road that the proposed central fire station, to be in the center of Town, but those response times, those differences in location and the building. Mr. Johnson stated that they are not going to generate that different of service to our residents and that's the issue, spending the money right now when we are unsure what's happening with Senate Enrolled Act One, the effect that's going to have on us with our taxes. We know for sure that it's affecting us this year in the amount of $700,000.00 plus that we are unable to collect because of circuit breakers. Circuit Breaker is the maximum amount that people have to pay on their property taxes. That means that we're charging the maximum already to people. If we go and bond 10 plus million dollars on a fire station, we're going to have to find that money somewhere. He stated that's going to come from the general fund. That means services that we currently provide aren't going to be able to be provided the same as they are now. That means our Fire Department may not have the money they have currently to operate. Mr. Johnson stated plus, this new building is going to cost us more to operate. NIPSCO, Insurance, all the things that go into operating a building. Maintenance cost all go up, it's larger, it's bigger, it's more complex, and technologies is more expensive. All of these things go into operational costs year to year to year to year. He stated we don't have the extra money and we certainly don't foresee more money coming into this Town from property taxes based upon Senate Enrollment Act One. Mr. Johnson stated that we should not proceed forward with a new central fire station. We should focus on maintaining the services that we currently provide at the level that we provide them and enhancing those and being efficient in providing those services. That's where our focus should be, not spending money on a central fire station that truthfully, we just don't need right now. He stated that there may be a time in the future where it is prudent to build a central fire station and he will 100% back it, but right now is not the time.

Mrs. Arvanitis stated that she is going to read the agenda item again. Authorize the Clerk-Treasurer to explore options

for financing the central fire station project. She said just to be clear what the agenda item is.

Mr. Schmitt stated that he has a comment that he'd like the public to know the history of the new fire station. He stated that they started working on building a new fire station roughly five years ago. He stated they did a study in the Town of Schererville and they said the best place for a central fire station would be further west than the present one, which is why they chose this site. Mr. Schmitt stated they have been working on that site for three to four years on getting the property bought, getting all of the Engineering done, getting all the soil testing done, doing all the work that has to be done to build a project like that. He stated that in the meantime, we have a fire station on the east part of town, we have a fire station on the northwest part of town. This is something that is a public safety and it's a capital project. A Capital Project like Mr. Johnson said, is normally a bond project or there's several different ways to finance a project like this. Mr. Schmitt stated that he feels personally that they can look at all of the options and that's what we're going to do. We are going to look at the options on how to finance that, but if anyone's been down to the central fire station now, you would say that you would need a new fire station. Mr. Schmitt stated that the studies are pretty much done on this and we should be wrapping up this month.

Mr. Connelly stated that he wants to move on with the motion, with the options to explore the different type of financing. Mr. Connelly stated that that again, this agenda item does not authorize the expenditure for the building of the fire station, it's to explore options. He stated that none of us know yet exactly what the impact of Senate Bill One is going to have on our general fund and we can't move forward with spending the money on building a fire station until we know what that impact is.

Roll call vote on the motion: Mr. Johnson – No; Mr. Connelly – Yes; Mr. Schmitt – Yes; Mr. Guetzloff – Yes; Mrs. Arvanitis – Yes. Motion carries (4-1).

ITEM I. Award Bid for the Town of Schererville, 2026 Street Resurfacing to Rieth-Riley Construction Co. Inc. in The amount of $1,929,969.15. Authorize the Town Manager, Director of Operations, Clerk-Treasurer and Town Attorney to Finalize Execution of Documents To Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) Once Invoicing is received. This project is being Facilitated through the Community Crossing Matching Grant Fund by INDOT

Mr. Nondorf stated that twenty-two streets were submitted and approved for the 2026 CCMG. He stated that they include streets in Foxwood Villas, Northwood Subdivision, Hugo Hill Subdivision, Lincoln Knolls Subdivision, Robinhood Boulevard,

Harvest Drive north of US 30, Pineview (off of 91st) and Louis Drive. He stated that the 2026 CCMG project would be in addition to the 2025 CCMG that's already underway with concrete work already occurring in a few neighbors around town. Mr. Nondorf stated that this will be a total of forty-eight streets that will be resurfaced in 2026 with concrete repairs.

Mr. Schmitt made a motion to Award the Bid to Rieth-Riley Construction in the amount of $1,929,969.15, seconded by Connelly.

Mr. Schmitt asked Mr. Nondorf when will Rieth-Riley start on these. Mr. Nondorf stated that they are having a preconstruction meeting on Friday, if this gets approved today. Mr. Nondorf stated that 2025-1's already underway, they have been Eagle Ridge Estates and are currently in Novo Selo Subdivision with concrete work. He stated that Milestone is the contractor for that section of the CCMG.

All in favor (5-0).

ITEM J. Award Bid for the Town of Schererville, Lead & Galvanized Line Replacement Project to Rex Construction Co, Inc. in the amount of $282,000.00. Authorize the Town Manager, Director of Operations, Clerk-Treasurer and Town Attorney to Finalize Execution of Documents
(From the Waterworks Agenda)

Mr. Gorman stated that this is from the Waterworks Board Agenda.

Mr. Connelly made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Johnson. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM K. Consider approval to Purchase Property Located at 62/72 Kennedy Ave., Schererville, IN, from Ronald Carlson in the Amount of $92,214.00 (Right of Way) And to Authorize the Town Manager, Director of Operations, Clerk-Treasurer and Town Attorney to Finalize Execution of Documents
(Phase 3 – Parcel 16) (Kennedy Avenue Improvement Project)

Mr. Hansen stated that this is for Phase 3, Parcel 16 as part of the Kennedy Avenue project. (He had the area up on the screen.) He stated that it is just south of Solan Pruzin Funeral Home. He stated that the amount of $92,214.00 is reflected on the appraised value of the land, as well as a supplemental amount based on comparable properties in the area. Mr. Hansen stated that as part of this, they will also be installing a larger driveway to accommodate those two lots. He stated that they will be removing a tree and installing some

culvert pipes, which will connect his sump pump into that as well.

Mr. Schmitt made a motion to approve, seconded by Mr. Connelly. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM L. Proclaim May 15th as Peace Officers' Memorial Day, and The Week of May 15th Falls as National Police Week in The Town of Schererville

Mrs. Arvanitis read the proclamation into the record.

Mr. Guetzloff made a motion to proclaim May 15, 2026 as Pease Officers' Memorial Day in the Town of Schererville, seconded by Mr. Schmitt. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM M. Proclaim May 17th – 23rd as National Public Works in The Town of Schererville

Mrs. Arvanitis read the proclamation into the record.

Mr. Johnson made a motion to proclaim May 17th – 23rd as National Public Works in the Town of Schererville, seconded by Mr. Guetzloff. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM N. Consider Acceptance of Donations $5,105.97

Mrs. Klein read the list of donations into the record. She stated that for the month of April the Town received $2,445.97 for in-kind donations and $2,660.00 for monetary donations.

Mr. Guetzloff made a motion to accept the donations as read, seconded by Mr. Schmitt. All in favor (5-0).

THEREUPON, Business from the floor

Mr. Chris Orth, 7351 Bradford Place, Schererville, IN stated that on the morning of October 25, 2025, we had a water main break in the easement just outside his property line. The water ran for about 4 hours before it was shut off. He stated that he talked to several civil engineers about the damage that was done on his property. (He also had photos). He stated that when the watermain went off, the water rushed out, down the street like a river as well as underneath his driveway, popping up the driveway, making tripping hazards left and right, caving the driveway at the apron and in general causing damage all the way up to his garage. Mr. Orth stated that what he is here to ask the Council is to consider a remediation plan. He thanked Mr. Schmitt and Mrs. Arvanitis for their help in this matter. Mr. Orth stated that he did have Mr. Gorman come out because he doesn't think this was caused by the water

main break. Unfortunately, Mr. Orth had three civil engineers come look at, they are just colleagues of his and they said hydrostatic pressure can raise any concrete and could do any kind of damage, like they're seeing. Mr. Orth stated he is happy to share the pictures with the Council, the one in particular, he can show the Council a river that is going down his street and then the various cracks in the driveway and lifting up blocks that he has. He stated that the entire driveway is lifted by about 8 inches. Mr. Orth stated that his insurance is aware but they said since it happened on town property, they are not responsible.

Mr. Johnson asked Mr. Orth if he had any sort of written report from those engineers saying that this was caused by the incident? Mr. Orth stated he has not hired an engineer to give provide a written report. Mr. Johnson asked Mr. Orth if he has any photos from before this incident. Mr. Orth stated no, all of these photos are after the incident.

Mr. Orth stated that Mr. Gorman brought up what he saw was settling concrete. Mr. Orth stated that with his experience and the same with the three engineers he talked to, they all live on his street, said that concrete settles one direction and that is down. He stated that his driveway is raised up an inch.

Mr. Schmitt asked Mr. Nondorf if they were out there at the early start of this after it happened, and that his advice was to let that settle over the winter, correct?

Mr. Nondorf stated that he was out there originally when the water main broke. The four hours of the water main still running was a result of waiting for emergency locates from the prospective utility companies in that area. He stated that they did throttle the main down when they arrived on scene. They took it from 50-60 PSI to 30 PSI, so people still had water in the meantime until the utility locates were marked on the ground. Mr. Nondorf stated that anything with the concrete is speculation at this point.

Mr. Johnson asked Mr. Orth if the photos show the water running up onto your property. Mr. Orth stated yes, they do, the pictures show the end of the driveway and then he has pictures where weeks later it was seeping out from underneath the driveway where was still coming back down the hill.

Mr. Johnson asked Mr. Orth where the break was in relation to his home. He stated he has photos, but the break happened in the easement next to his property.

Mrs. Arvanitis stated that there was a meeting that took place, and asked if there will there be another meeting that will take place regarding this?

Mr. Nondorf stated that they had a meeting on site when he was on vacation, so he doesn't know if there is going to be another one or not.

Mrs. Arvanitis stated that someone had mentioned that Mr. Orth has had some engineers look at this, and asked if we had anybody look at it further.

Mr. Gorman stated no, when they went out there, the gentleman threatened litigation, so we stopped talking.

Attorney Austgen stated that if there is going to be possible litigation, we don't want to add any more comments.

Mr. Orth stated that he would like the Town to hire an independent engineering firm to take a look at what happened. He stated that the questions that were asked to Mr. Gorman when he was there, it was clear that he's not an engineer, nor does he practice to be one. Mr. Orth stated he is an engineer and he knows what happened. So, he is just asking that the Town make right the damage that was done by the water main break.

Mr. Gorman stated that he wasn't acting like an engineer, he was acting like a utility guy that's been in the business for 33 years. He stated that water runs downhill, not uphill.

Mrs. Arvanitis stated that we need to have some discussion regarding this.

Meeting adjourned.

_____
ROBIN ARVANITIS
TOWN COUNCIL PRESIDENT

_____
MICHAEL A TROXELL, IAMCA, MMC, ACPFIM, CPFA, CMO
TOWN CLERK-TREASURER

A TRUE COPY