TOWN OF SCHERERVILLE SCHERERVILLE, INDIANA

BOARD OF SAFETY MEETING August 4, 2022

The Board of Safety Meeting was called to order by Chairman Eric Graf at 6:30 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, David Eenigenburg, and George Kouros. Staff members present: Police Chief Pete Sormaz, Fire Chief Robert Patterson, Deputy Fire Chief David Meyer, and Recording Secretary Stephanie Bottiger. Also present: Attorney Alfredo Estrada. Absent: Deputy Chief of Police Steven McNamara, Michael O'Rourke, Rich Pietrzak

THEREUPON, Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Eenigenburg made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 7, 2022 Public Meeting, seconded by Mr. Kouros. Motion carries (3 – 0).

THEREUPON, Correspondence

ITEM A. PD – NONE

ITEM B. FD – NONE

THEREUPON, Old Business

ITEM A. FD – NONE

ITEM B. PD – Emergency Hire Update

Chief Sormaz requested approval from the Board to extend the conditional offer of employment to Madeline Miner, due to the notification of a retirement. Motion made by Mr. Eenigenburg, seconded by Mr. Kouros. Motion carries (3 – 0).

THEREUPON, New Business

ITEM A. FD – Swearing in of full time Fire Fighter/EMT Anthony Elkmann

Fire Fighter/EMT Anthony Elkmann was sworn in by Schererville Clerk-Treasurer Mike Troxell.

ITEM B. PD – Retirement letter of Vince Bertossi

Chief Sormaz requested the Board accept the retirement letter of Officer Vince Bertossi. Motion made by Mr. Eenigenburg, seconded by Mr. Kouros. Motion carries (3 – 0).

ITEM C. PD – Time promotion of Officer Michael Ortega

Chief Sormaz requested approval from the Board for the time promotion of Officer Michael Ortega from Probationary Patrolman to First Class Patrolman, effective August 21, 2022. Chief Sormaz further advised the Board that Officer Ortega had previously worked for the Michigan City Police Department and currently has 3.5 total years of service. Motion made by Mr. Eenigenburg, seconded by M. Kouros. Motion carries (3 – 0).

THEREUPON, Reports

ITEM A. Police Chief

Chief Sormaz advised the Board that two days ago the National Night Out had been held. There were approximately 30 vendors for the event. Two bicycles were raffled and 420 back packs containing

school supplies were distributed. Chief Sormaz thanked all that came out to support the event and the community members that backed the event by sending in donations.

Chief Sormaz informed the Board of the 9/11 Memorial next month. This year would be an open event, to be held on Sunday, September 11, 2022 from 10 am to 4 pm. He further advised the Board that Officers, Fire Fighters, and Community members would be present throughout the day at the Memorial. All are welcome to attend and pay their respects and reflect upon the events that occurred. There would be no formal ceremony this year. Chief Sormaz disclosed to the Board that prior to the Memorial taking place, they are attempting to have the concrete walkway and irrigation system finished.

Chief Sormaz explained to the Board that due to the National Night Out held on Tuesday and the Board of Safety Meeting being so close to the first of the month, the Board would receive a follow up email with the Police Department Reports.

ITEM B. Fire Chief

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

For the month of July, 2022, the Schererville Fire Department performed 36 inspections, responded to 319 incidents, and attended 815 hours of training.

ITEM C. Attorney NONE

THEREUPON, Board Members

ITEM A. George Kouros

Mr. Kouros suggested that the Board of Safety send a recommendation to the Town Council that the council consider passing an ordinance, or multiple ordinances, that would pose harsher penalties for criminal behavior at town events. Mr. Kouros feels strongly that something should be done before a truly tragic event happens; he believes the Board and Town need to send a strong message that there would be zero tolerance for criminal activity at community functions.

Attorney Estrada advised the Board if this is what they want to do, a resolution could be drafted. He went on to explain that a resolution is a statement by the Board that is non-binding, suggesting that the Town Council take assertive action. Attorney Estrada emphasized the resolution would be non-binding and the Town Council, if they chose, would not have to accept the resolution.

Chairman Graff suggested that they wait until they had full Board participation so that they would have opportunity to discuss the suggestion before it goes forward.

Attorney Estrada recommended information be put together for the Board to consider and discuss at the next meeting. If the majority of the Board agrees to move forward with the information provided, then action could be taken on at the October 2022 meeting.

Chairman Graff agreed with Attorney Estrada. Further discussion would be postponed until the next meeting. The suggestion made by Mr. Kouros would be added to the agenda for the September meeting. Discussion continued for several minutes and it was agreed upon that the Study Session would take place at 5:30 pm.

ITEM B. Eric Graf

Chairman Graff advised the Board there was a welcome home celebration on Wednesday, August 3, 2022 for a soldier that retired after twenty years of service in the United States Army. He further stated that the celebration was short notice, but he appreciated the active participation of the subdivision, Officers, and Fire Fighters that participated in the event.

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. Kouros. Motion carries (3 – 0). The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

~~ERIC~~ Rich Retzak ~~GRAF~~
SCHERERVILLE BOARD OF
SAFETY ~~CHAIRMAN~~
A TRUE COPY

DAVID EENIGENBURG
SCHERERVILLE BOARD OF
SAFETY VICE CHAIRMAN
A TRUE COPY