TOWN OF SCHERERVILLE SCHERERVILLE, INDIANA

BOARD OF SAFETY MEETING September 1, 2022

The Board of Safety Meeting was called to order by Chairman Eric Graf at 6:00 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, Mike O'Rourke, George Kouros, and Rich Pietrzak. Staff members present: Police Chief Pete Sormaz, Deputy Chief of Police Steven McNamara, Fire Chief Robert Patterson, and Recording Secretary Stephanie Bottiger. Also present: Attorney Alfredo Estrada. Absent: David Eenigenburg, Deputy Fire Chief David Meyer.

THEREUPON, Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Pietrzak made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 16, 2022 Public Meeting, seconded by Mr. O'Rourke. Motion carries (4 – 0).

THEREUPON, Correspondence

ITEM A. PD – NONE

ITEM B. FD – Thank you letter from Dyer Fire Department

Fire Chief Patterson informed the Board that he had received a thank-you letter from the Dyer Fire department thanking them for their assistance with a structure fire in Briar Ridge subdivision on August 3, 2022.

THEREUPON, Old Business

ITEM A. FD – NONE

ITEM B. PD – Emergency Hire Update

Chief Sormaz updated the Board that on August 22, 2022, Madeline Guillermo was sworn in

THEREUPON, New Business

ITEM A. FD – NONE

ITEM B. PD – NONE

THEREUPON, Reports

ITEM A. Police Chief

Chief Somaz thanked everyone who attended the National Night Out on August 2, 2022. He further advised the Board that 420 book bags were given out to children in 2nd to 5th grade, and 2 bicycles were raffled. He also stated it was a good turnout with the exception of UCAN who were unable to land due to responding to an emergency.

Chief Sormaz invited everyone to the 9/11 memorial to be held Sunday, September 11, 2022 from 10am to 4pm at the 9/11 memorial located just east of the Police Department parking lot. There would be staff members, Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts and community members present and would be handing out pins and flyers.

Chairman Graf asked Chief Somaz about the Citizens Police Academy (CPA), to which he responded the CPA would begin on September 19, 2022 with September 12, 2022 being the deadline for the applications to be submitted. The classes will be held on Mondays for 10 weeks. Chairman Graf encouraged the other Board members to attend a class and see what Chief Sormaz has arranged for the attendees.

Chairman Graf requested Chief Somaz update the Board on the self-defense class, to which he responded that he did not have a deadline yet set for the Women's self-defense class. Chairman Graf asked if it was the Realtors who were at the class to which Chief Sormaz replied the Tri-Town Safety Village hosted an event, supported by the Police Department, for the Greater Northwest Indiana Association of Realtors (GNIAR). He went on to state there were 27 people in attendance, who were appreciative of the information they received – hands on self-defense when interacting with a client in case something were to happen. The class was approximately three hours long and they also received information in regards to technology to keep them safe. Discussion continued for several minutes on more aspects of the class.

Chief Somaz updated the Board on the success of the Cop on a Rooftop, which took place on August 19, 2022 at the Dunkin Donuts in Schererville from 5am to 12pm. Schererville Police Department took the top spot once again, raising $5,844.00 for Special Olympics, followed by the Dyer Police Department who raised $4,140.00. The total amount raised by the twenty participating agencies throughout the state was $38,489.00. Chief Sormaz was appreciative of Corporal Ian Segovia, who spearheaded the event, as well as all of support from the Community, Officers, Fire personnel, and Town Officials who attended the event.

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

For the month of July, 2022, the Patrol Division had: 1,687 calls for service; 110 accident reports; issued 148 Local Ordinance Citations, issued 396 State Infraction Citations; 163 total arrests; 257 total charges filed of which 109 were Class A Misdemeanors, 56 were Class B Misdemeanors, 62 were Class C Misdemeanors, 25 Level 6 Felonies, 1 Level 5 Felony, 3 Level 4 Felonies, and 1 level 2 Felony.

For the month of July, 2022 the Criminal Investigations Division filed 23 criminal charges of which 11 were felony charges, 6 were misdemeanor charges, 3 were local ordinances, and 3 were Federal charges; 15 thefts, 2 thefts from motor vehicles, and 0 burglaries.

For the month of July, 2022, Schererville Police Officers attended 155 hours of training.

For the month of August, 2022 Schererville Police Officers attended 505.5 hours of training.

For the month of July, 2022, the Animal Control Division had 45 calls for service and 2 bite reports. 16 new animals were taken in (6 cats and 10 dogs), 1 animal (cat) was adopted out, 6 animals (dogs) were returned to owner/guardian and 1 animal (dog) was transported out. 1 animal (cat) died, and 3 animals (2 cats and 1 dog) were euthanized.

For the month of August, 2022, the Animal Control Division had 43 calls for service and 2 bite reports. 18 new animals were taken in (12 cats and 6 dogs), 5 animals were adopted out (3 cats and 2 dogs), 3 animals were returned to owner/guardian (0 cats and 3 dogs), 17 animals were transferred out (13 cats and 4 dogs). 1 animal (dog) died.

ITEM B. Fire Chief

Chief Patterson notified the Board that the Fire Department open house would be October 1, 2022 at Fire Station 2, located at 280 Plum Creek Drive. The time has not yet been set.

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. Eric Graf

Chairman Graf wanted to add that the Lake County Pipes and Drums, of which he is a member, would once again be participating in the Police Appreciation Parade taking place on September 22, 2022. The event is scheduled to begin with the line-up at Lake Central High School at 5:30 pm, with the kick-off at 6pm, ending at the Halls of St. George where a short ceremony will take place.

THEREUPON, Business from the Floor NONE

THEREUPON, Adjournment

There being no further business, Mr. Pietrzak made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. O'Rourke. Motion carries (4 – 0). The meeting was adjourned at 6:09 p.m.

ERIC GRAF
SCHERERVILLE BOARD OF SAFETY CHAIRMAN
A TRUE COPY

DAVID EENIGENBURG
SCHERERVILLE BOARD OF SAFETY VICE CHAIRMAN
A TRUE COPY