TOWN OF SCHERERVILLE SCHERERVILLE, INDIANA

BOARD OF SAFETY MEETING November 3, 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, Mike O'Rourke, Rich Pietrzak, and George Kouros. Staff members present: Police Chief Peter Sormaz, Deputy Chief of Police Steven McNamara, Fire Chief Robert Patterson, and Recording Secretary Stephanie Bottiger. Also present: Attorney Alfredo Estrada. Absent: Deputy Fire Chief David Meyer.

THEREUPON, Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Eenigenburg made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 6, 2022 Public Meeting, seconded by Mr. O'Rourke. Motion carries (5 – 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 reported to the Board there were no more applicants to select from the Emergency Hire List. He recommended to the Board to terminate the Emergency Hire List. Motion made by Mr. Eenigenburg, seconded by Mr. O'Rourke. Motion carries (5 – 0).

THEREUPON, New Business

ITEM A. FD – Job Status change for four Firefighters

Fire Chief Patterson requested approval from the Board for the time promotion of Dominic Zuccarelli, Noah Wells, Jacob Thornton, and Collin Zackave from Firefighter/Entry Level to Firefighter/EMT 3rd Class. Motion made by Mr. Pietrzak, seconded by Mr. Kouros. Motion carries (5 – 0). Chief Patterson also informed the Board that the fifth fireman has been off due to an on-the-job-injury; his time has been extended until further notice.

ITEM B. FD – Approval to hire part-time employees

Fire Chief Patterson requested approval from the Board to hire four (4) part-time employees: Andres Morales, Jason Noto, Thomas Riha, and Mark Whi Hook. Motion made by Mr. Pietrzak, seconded by Mr. Kouros. Motion carries (5 – 0).

ITEM C. FD – Swearing in of new employees

Tim Jenkins, Alex Buskoski, and Nick Minkema were sworn in by Janice Malinowski, Administrative Assistant for the Town of Schererville. Father Mick Kopal, the Chaplain of the Schererville Fire Department, offered a prayer for the newly appointed Firefighters.

ITEM D. PD – Retirement Letter of Sergeant Lawrence Mysliwiec, Resignation of Officer Ashley Stevens

Chief Sormaz requested the Board accept the retirement letter of Sergeant Lawrence Mysliwiec. Sgt. Mysliwiec has been with the department for thirty-three years. His last day will be January 26, 2023.

Chief Sormaz also informed the Board he had received the resignation letter, effective immediately, from Officer Ashley Stevens, who has been with the department for just under five years. Motion made by Mr. Pietrzak to accept the retirement letter and resignation letter, seconded by Mr. Kouros. Motion carries (5 – 0).

ITEM E. PD – Time Promotion for four Officers

Chief Sormaz requested approval from the Board for the time promotion of Officers Tiffany Beemsterboer, Kenneth Galliher, Scott Karras, and Michael Osborn from Probationary Patrolman to 3rd Class Patrolman, effective November 27, 2022. Motion made by Mr. Pietrzak, seconded by Mr. Kouros. Motion carries (5 – 0).

ITEM F. PD – General Order #5.01 – Authorized Department Leave Policy

Chief Sormaz recommended the Board approve the changes in section 4, letter B, #4 and section 5, letter A of General Order (GO) #5.01. The changes in policy pertain to the leave time of officers. Chief Sormaz explained to the Board that the department currently has an eight hour shift worked by administration and a twelve hour shift worked by patrol. He has added a ten hour shift to the policy and believes that it will allow for more flexibility between the two divisions and increase the departments' efficiency. The policy will be effective January 1, 2023. Motion made by Mr. Pietrzak, seconded by Mr. O'Rourke. Motion carries (5 – 0).

ITEM G. PD – Tow Resolution

Chief Sormaz recommended the Board approve the Tow Resolution drafted by Attorney Alfredo Estrada to increase the fees as there has been no increase since 2009. Motion made by Mr. Pietrzak to approve the Tow Resolution with the recommendation to send it to the Schererville Town Council, seconded by Mr. O'Rourke. Motion carries (5 – 0). Mr. O'Rourke questioned as to when the resolution would take effect, to which Chief Sormaz replied, if approved by the Schererville Town Council, it would be effective January 1, 2023.

ITEM H. PD – Emergency Hire

Under Old Business, the previous Emergency Hire List was terminated. Chief Sormaz recommended the Board initiate a new Emergency Hire List for certified Indiana Law Enforcement Officers, effective immediately, due to the department losing two officers tonight and more retirements scheduled for next year as well as the academy being full for January 2023. Motion made by Mr. Pietrzak, seconded by Mr. O'Rourke. Motion carries (5 – 0).

THEREUPON, Reports

ITEM A. Police Chief

1. Citizen's Police Academy

Chief Sormaz informed the Board the graduation for the Citizen's Police Academy would be November 21, 2022 at 7 pm in the Schererville Police Department Meeting and Training Facility. He hopes the members of the Board can attend.

2. Reserve Program

Chief Sormaz advised the Board that Deputy Chief McNamara was handling the Reserve Program. Deputy Chief McNamara informed the Board they were accepting applications until November 21, 2022. He further advised the Board that some equipment had been ordered.

3. Women's Self Defense

Deputy Chief McNamara made the Board aware that the Police Department would be hosting a Women's Self-Defense class for those sixteen years of age and up on November 29th, 2022 at 6:30 pm. The event is free.

4. Veteran's Day Ceremony

Deputy Chief McNamara informed the Board there would be a Veteran's Day Ceremony on November 11, 2022 and the Police Department would be working in conjunction with the Parks Department; more information to follow.

For the month of October, 2022, the Patrol Division had: 1,658 calls for service; 123 accident reports; issued 605 warnings and 611 total citations of which 144 were Local Ordinance Citations, and 467 were State Infraction Citations. There were 176 total arrests. The Patrol Division filed 315 total charges of which 130 were Class A Misdemeanors, 72 were Class B Misdemeanors, 81 were Class C Misdemeanors, and 32 Level 6 Felonies. The Patrol Division served 70 total Warrants, and had 212 Proactive Patrols for the month.

For the month of September, 2022, the Criminal Investigations Division filed 22 criminal charges, of which 12 were felony, 10 were misdemeanor, 0 were local ordinances, and 0 were Federal. The breakdown of the 53 cases assigned to the Criminal Investigations Division for August: 11 Miscellaneous, 25 Theft/Shoplifting, 8 Fraud, 1 Drugs, 2 Sex Offenses, 12 Auto Thefts, 0 Burglary/Home Invasions, 0 Battery/Domestics, and 2 Fatal/Hit & Run Accidents.

For the month of September, 2022, Schererville Police Officers attended 86 hours of training.

The Animal Control Division reports were unavailable at the time of the meeting.

ITEM B. Fire Chief

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

Chief Patterson made the Board aware that he neglected to congratulate Noah Wells and Jacob Thornton on their one year anniversary. He further added that all four are currently paramedic school and are at the top of their class. He stated the Fire Department is proud of them and the candidates should have their paramedic license the beginning of next year.

For the month of October, 2022, the Schererville Fire Department performed 19 inspections, responded to 316 incidents of which 267 were EMS related, 24 Fire related, 18 were Alarms/Investigations, and 7 were Fire Prevention, Inspections and or trainings. They also attended 680 hours of training.

ITEM C. Attorney NONE

THEREUPON, Board Members

Mr. O'Rourke inquired about the Turkey Raffle. Deputy Chief McNamara responded it would be held on November 15, 2022 at the Halls of St. George beginning at 6 pm. Commander Bork further advised it was the 32nd year for the Raffle.

Chairman Graf inquired about the SWAT Fundraiser. Commander Bork responded the SWAT Fundraiser would be held December 2, 2022, also at the Halls of St. George, from 5 pm to midnight. He further advised the Board the Police Department is part of a multi-jurisdictional team and the fundraiser is how they make their money. Commander Bork went on to add that it was a good event, and that the take home from the 50/50 raffle last year was $25,000.00. He encouraged the Board to attend if they were able.

Fire Chief Patterson added the Fire Department would be hosting their annual Food Drive on December 10, 2022 in the Strack and VanTil parking lot. He is unsure of the hours of the event, usually the event is from 10 am to 4 pm. Chairman Graf requested Fire Chief Patterson send the Board an email with the details, to which he replied he would.

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 (5 – 0). The meeting was adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

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ERIC GRAF
SCHERERVILLE BOARD OF SAFETY CHAIRMAN
A TRUE COPY

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DAVID EENIGENBURG
SCHERERVILLE BOARD OF SAFETY VICE CHAIRMAN
A TRUE COPY