TOWN OF SCHERERVILLE SCHERERVILLE, INDIANA

BOARD OF SAFETY MEETING July 7, 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, George Kouros, and Rich Pietrzak. 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 and Schererville Town Council Liaison Thomas Schmitt. Absent: Deputy Chief of Police Steven McNamara.

THEREUPON, Amendment of the Agenda

Chairman Graf stated to those present the need to amend the Agenda under New Business. Under New Business, letter D will be the discussion of resolution 2022-02. Motion made by Mr. Pietrzak, seconded by Mr. Eenigenburg. Motion carries (5 – 0).

THEREUPON, Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Eenigenburg made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 2, 2022 Public Meeting, seconded by Mr. Kouros. Motion carries (5 – 0).

THEREUPON, Correspondence

ITEM A. PD – NONE

ITEM B. FD – Safe Haven Baby Box

Fire Chief Patterson informed the Board that on Tuesday, July 5, 2022 a baby was surrendered to the Safe Haven Baby Box located at Fire Station #2. The baby was transported to the hospital per the policies of the Fire Department and Safe Haven. Deputy Fire Chief Meyer further advised the Board of the update received today's date stated the baby was healthy and with foster parents.

THEREUPON, Old Business

ITEM A. FD – NONE

ITEM B. PD – Emergency Hire Update

Chief Sormaz updated the Board that on June 27, 2022, two new officers were sworn in. Both officers have completed their in-house training and are currently in Field Training Phase with 28 to 30 shifts to complete. Each officer has 3 to 5 years previous experience.

THEREUPON, New Business

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

Fire Chief Patterson requested approval from the Board to hire six (6) part-time employees. Motion made by Mr. Eenigenburg, seconded by Mr. Pietrzak. Motion carries (5 – 0).

ITEM B. PD – General Order #05.17 – Application for and Selection Process of Schererville Police Officers

Chief Sormaz recommended the Board approve the changes in section 9 of General Order (GO) # 05.17. The changes in policy pertain to probationary lateral hires with three (3) or more years of Law Enforcement experience. Upon successful completion of the Field Training Program, the probationary officer would be eligible to be promoted to 1st Class Patrol Officer, retroactive effective June 1, 2022.

Officers with less than three (3) years of Law Enforcement experience would be evaluated on an individual basis. Motion made by Mr. Eenigenburg, seconded by Mr. Pietrzak. Motion carries (5 – 0).

ITEM C. PD – General Order #: 05.20 – Specialized Assignments

Chief Sormaz recommended the Board approve the changes in the added section of General Order (GO) #05.20. The addition in the policy pertains to probationary lateral hires that come to the department with specialized training. Chief Sormaz has requested the Chief of Police be given the discretion to appoint said officers to specialized assignments, based upon their particular skillset. Motion made by Mr. Eenigenburg, seconded by Mr. Pietrzak. Motion carries (5 – 0).

ITEM D. PD – Resolution 2022-02

Chief Sormaz requested the Board approve the resolution recommending the Schererville Town Council adopt an ordinance to supplement the traffic code to add provisions regarding expired license plates and vehicle equipment violations. Motion made by Mr. Pietrzak, seconded by Mr. Eenigenburg. Motion carries (5 – 0).

THEREUPON, Reports

ITEM A. Police Chief

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

For the month of May, 2022, the Patrol Division had: 1,484 calls for service; 95 accident reports; issued 145 Local Ordinance Citations, issued 332 State Infraction Citations; 149 total arrests; 227 total charges filed of which 80 were Class A Misdemeanors, 41 were Class B Misdemeanors, 67 were Class C Misdemeanors, 36 Level 6 Felonies, and 3 Level 5 Felonies.

For the month of June, 2022, the Patrol Division had: 1,632 calls for service; 120 accident reports; issued 137 Local Ordinance Citations, issued 258 State Infraction Citations; 116 total arrests; 163 total charges filed of which 75 were Class A Misdemeanors, 30 were Class B Misdemeanors, 39 were Class C Misdemeanors, 18 Level 6 Felonies, and 2 Level 5 Felonies.

For the month of May, 2022 the Criminal Investigations Division filed 39 criminal charges of which 25 were felony charge sand 14 were misdemeanor charges; 7 thefts, 3 thefts from motor vehicles, 0 and burglaries.

For the month of June, 2022 the Criminal Investigations Division filed 42 criminal charges of which 23 were felony charges and 19 were misdemeanor charges; 16 thefts, 0 thefts from motor vehicles, and 1 burglary.

For the month of June, 2022, Schererville Police Officers attended 138 hours of training.

For the month of June, 2022, the Animal Control Division had 43 calls for service and 2 bite reports. 23 new animals were taken in, 1 animal was adopted out, 16 animals were returned to owner/guardian and 11 animals were transported out.

ITEM B. Fire Chief

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

For the month of June, 2022, the Schererville Fire Department performed 21 inspections, responded to 375 incidents, and attended 601.15 hours of training.

ITEM C. Attorney NONE

THEREUPON, Board Members NONE

THEREUPON, Business from the Floor NONE

THEREUPON, Adjournment

There being no further business, Mr. O'Rourke made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Kouros. Motion carries (5 – 0). The meeting was adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

ERIC GRAF
SCHERERVILLE BOARD OF SAFETY CHAIRMAN
A TRUE COPY

DAVID EENIGENBURG
SCHERERVILLE BOARD OF SAFETY VICE CHAIRMAN
A TRUE COPY