TOWN OF SCHERERVILLE SCHERERVILLE, INDIANA

BOARD OF SAFETY MEETING May 7, 2026

The Board of Safety Meeting was called to order by Chairman Eric Graf at 5:15 p.m., in the Schererville Town Hall Meeting Room, 10 E. Joliet Street, Schererville, IN.

Attendance was taken with the following Board Members present: Eric Graf, George Kouros, David Jaroszewski, and Robert Volkmann. Staff members present: Chief of Police Peter Sormaz, Deputy Chief of Police Steven McNamara, Fire Chief Robert Patterson, Deputy Fire Chief David Meyer, and Recording Secretary Stephanie Bottiger. Also present: Attorney Christian Bartholomew, Town Manager James Gorman, Town Council Liaison Tom Schmitt, and Town Council Representative Kevin Connelly. Director of Operations Andrew Hansen joined after the meeting began. Absent: David Eenigenburg.

THEREUPON, Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Volkmann made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 5, 2026, Regular Public Meeting, seconded by Mr. Jaroszewski. Motion carries (4 – 0).

THEREUPON, Correspondence

ITEM A. FD – NONE

ITEM B. PD – NONE

THEREUPON, Old Business

ITEM A. FD – NONE

ITEM B. PD – Emergency Hire update

Chief Sormaz informed the Board that the Emergency Hire window closed on May 4, 2026, at 4p.m. with six applicants eligible to move on to the next phase of the process, the oral interviews. Chief Sormaz went on to add they hope to hold the interviews between May 19 – May 23, 2026, and will have Deputy Chief McNamara reach out to the Board to see whom is available to sit in on the interview process.

THEREUPON, New Business

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

Chief Patterson requested approval from the Board to hire five part-time employees, three Firefighter/EMTs, and two Paramedics. Motion made by Mr. Volkmann, seconded by Mr. Jaroszewski. Motion passes (4 – 0).

ITEM B. FD – Time Promotions

Chief Patterson requested approval from the Board for the time promotion of Michael Alonzo and Jack Scanlon from Firefighter/EMT Entry Level to Firefighter/EMT 3rd Class. Chairman Graf stated they would do one motion for both employees. Motion made by Mr. Volkmann, seconded by Mr. Jaroszewski. Motion carries (4 – 0).

ITEM C. FD – Turnout Gear Loan and Reimbursement Agreement

Chief Patterson informed the Board the policy presented is for full-time Firefighters who leave within five years of their hire date to reimburse the Town of Schererville for their turnout gear. Once approved by the Board of Safety, it will go before the Town Council for their vote. Motion made by Mr. Volkmann, seconded by Mr. Jaroszewski. Chairman Graf inquired if there was any conversation, before the vote was taken. Mr. Volkmann queried of Chief Patterson if the money was pro-rated, to which he

responded it was. Chairman Graf followed with a question of his own, and asked if, prior to today, was there ever an agreement in place, to which Chief Patterson replied no. Motion carries (4 – 0).

ITEM D. PD – Certify Promotional Registers

Chief Sormaz recommended the Board certify the promotional registers for Corporal and Sergeant, which, if certified, would expire on May 2, 2028. Chairman Graf advised the other Board members that two separate votes would be taken for the registers. Motion made by Mr. Jaroszewski to certify the Corporal register, seconded by Mr. Volkmann. Motion carries (4 – 0). Motion made by Mr. Jaroszewski to certify the Sergeant register, seconded by Mr. Volkmann. Chairman Graf asked if there was any conversation, to which Mr. Volkmann congratulated all those that took the test and qualified. Motion carries (4 – 0).

ITEM E. PD – Recommend to Council to increase Holidays for Sworn Officers

Chief Sormaz recommended the Board of Safety recommend to the Town Council they review and increase the number of floating holidays for Officers by six days, bringing their total floating holidays to fourteen. Mr. Jaroszewski made the recommendation to send to the Town Council, for approval, to increase the floating holidays for the sworn. Mr. Jaroszewski went on to add that Schererville, in regards to compensation, was now third from the bottom in the County and feels that they need to strengthen the retention initiatives to keep their current qualified officers while enhancing the talent acquisition to safeguard the community. Chairman Graf stated that was the motion along with conversation. Mr. Volkmann seconded the motion. Chairman Graf inquired if there was any more conversation, to which Mr. Volkmann replied yes. Mr. Volkmann recommended that the request be evaluated by the Town Administrative Staff to review against the paid time off (PTO) for all employees, to ensure complete information is given to the Town Council. Motion carries (4 – 0).

ITEM F. PD – Police Memorial

Chief Sormaz notified the Board on Monday, May 11, 2026, the Police Memorial would take place beginning at 10:30 a.m. with a detail to the graves of Schererville's two fallen officers, Chief Peter Redar, interred in St. Michael's Cemetery, and Officer James Wittchen, interred at Chapel Lawn Cemetery. Once this detail is complete, Father Mick Kopal will officiate the ceremony at the 911 Memorial, just east of the Police Department. Chairman Graf advised the change of events for the Police Memorial was a positive shift.

THEREUPON, Reports

ITEM A. Police Chief - Graduation of recruit Brendon Grabowski from NILEA

Chief Sormaz advised the Board all the reports were in the packet as well as a digital copy emailed. Chief Sormaz went on to add that recruit Brendon Grabowski was set to graduate from NILEA tomorrow, Friday, May 8, 2026 at 11 a.m. from Valparaiso University.

For the month of March, 2026, the Patrol Division responded to 1,476 incidents and took 94 accident reports. There were 79 total arrests. The Patrol Division filed 147 charges of which 57 were Class A Misdemeanors, 23 were Class B Misdemeanors, 47 were Class C Misdemeanors, as well as 20 Level 6 Felonies. The Patrol Division served 88 total warrants. They performed 636 traffic stops resulting in 324 citations issued of which 80 were local ordinances and 244 were state infractions. 413 warnings were also issued. The Patrol Division performed 109 vehicle searches, of which 9 were K9 vehicle searches. There were 152 Proactive Patrols.

For the month of March, 2026, the Criminal Investigations Division (CID) filed 43 criminal charges which were the result of 21 cases. Of these charges, 27 were felony, 14 were misdemeanor, and 2 were Federal. 33 were filed in Lake County Court, 6 were filed in Schererville Town Court, 2 were filed in Federal Court, and 2 were filed in Juvenile Court. The CID is investigating 75 incidents for the month of March including 33 Ordinance Violation Reports that were handled while the Schererville Code Enforcement officer was out. Detective Knight was the detective of the month.

For the month of April, 2026, Officers attended 377 hours of training.

For the month of April, 2026, the Animal Control Division had 35 calls for service, 2 bite reports and took in 4 animals. There were 0 adoptions for month. 2026 year-to-date adoption total is 4 animals.

ITEM B. Fire Chief

Fire Chief Patterson informed the Board that all the reports were in the packet.

For the month of April, 2026, the Schererville Fire Department performed 44 inspections, responded to 317 incidents of which 256 were EMS related, 33 were Fire related, and 28 were Alarms/Investigations. They also attended 508.6 total hours of training of which 366.10 were Fire Trainings, 127.5 were EMS Trainings, 10 were Leadership Trainings, and 5 were Community Training Hours.

ITEM C. Attorney – NONE

THEREUPON, Board Members David Jaroszewski

Mr. Jaroszewski advised those present that Cop on a Rooftop, which raises money for the Special Olympics, is set to take place on Friday, May 15, 2026, from 5 a.m. to noon. The Schererville Police Department has been the top collector the past several years.

At this time, Chief Sormaz advised the Board that the time he provided for the graduation ceremony was incorrect; the correct time is 1 p.m.

THEREUPON, Business from the Floor F.O.P. President Scott Savich

Scott Savich, President of the Schererville F.O.P. Lodge #170, on behalf of the Officers, thanked the members of the Board of Safety for their support of the extra floating holidays for the Officers.

THEREUPON, Adjournment

There being no further business, Mr. Jaroszewski made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Volkmann. Motion carries (4 – 0). The meeting was adjourned at 5:27 pm.

_____ _____

ERIC GRAF
SCHERERVILLE BOARD OF SAFETY CHAIRMAN
A TRUE COPY

GEORGE KOUROS
SCHERERVILLE BOARD OF SAFETY VICE CHAIRMAN
A TRUE COPY