

TOWN OF SCHERERVILLE

SCHERERVILLE, INDIANA

BOARD OF SAFETY MEETING

July 6, 2023

The Board of Safety Meeting was called to order by Chairman David Eenigenburg 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: David Eenigenburg, Rich Pietrzak, Mike O'Rourke, George Kouros, and Eric Graf. Staff members present: Police Chief 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 Lauren Ehardt in lieu of Attorney Alfredo Estrada, Town Manager Jim Gorman, and Schererville Town Council President Tom Schmitt.

THEREUPON, Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Kouros made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 1, 2023 Public Meeting, seconded by Mr. Graf. Motion carries (5 – 0).

THEREUPON, Correspondence

ITEM A. PD – Thank-you card from Chloe Ohr

Chief Sormaz advised the Board he received a Thank-you note from Chloe Ohr. Ms. Ohr had a disabled vehicle on June 20, 2023. Officer Jashenski and Dennis Patrick, one of the Police Departments' Volunteers In Police Service (VIPS) changed her tire for her.

ITEM B. PD – Thank you-note from the Marsh Family

Chief Sormaz informed the Board he received a thank-you note from LeRoy & Jamie Marsh for the funeral escort given for their son, Chris.

ITEM C. PD – Thank you-note from the Schererville Fire Department

Chief Sormaz notified the Board he received a thank-you note from Schererville Fire Chief Robert Patterson for their assistance with a funeral escort on June 14, 2023, for Army Combat Medic Specialist Luke Rhoades.

ITEM D. FD – Thank-you letter from the Riechers Family

Chief Patterson advised the Board he received a thank-you note from the Riechers Family for their assistance on a medical call.

ITEM E. FD – Thank-you note from the Rhoades family.

Chief Patterson notified the Board he received a thank-you note from the Rhoades Family for their assistance with a funeral escort and wake for their son, Army Combat Medic Specialist and former Schererville Fire Explorer, Luke Rhoades.

THEREUPON, Old Business

ITEM A. PD – NONE

ITEM C. FD – NONE

THEREUPON, New Business

ITEM A. FD – Approval of new full-time hire list

Chief Patterson requested approval from the Board to approve the full-time hire list they were presented with. Motion made by Mr. O'Rourke, seconded by Mr. Graf. Motion carries (5 – 0).

ITEM B. FD – Approval to offer conditional offer of employment to top candidate on list

Chief Patterson requested approve from the Board to make a conditional offer of employment to the top qualified candidate from the new full-time list. Mr. O'Rourke asked if it would be an immediate hire, to which Chief Patterson replied, yes. Motion made by Mr. O'Rourke, seconded by Mr. Pietrzak. Motion carries (5 – 0).

ITEM C. FD – Promotion of Lieutenant Valentino Trevino to Captain

Chief Patterson requested approval from the Board to promote Lieutenant Valentino Trevino to Captain. Motion made by Mr. O'Rourke, seconded by Mr. Graf. Motion Carries (5 – 0). Captain Trevino was sworn in by Schererville Clerk-Treasurer Mike Troxell.

ITEM D. FD – Approval to present to the Town Council for their approval to allow the Fire Department to participate in the Project Fire Buddies Program

Chief Patterson requested approval from the Board to present to the Town Council the recommendation to allow the Fire Department to participate in the Project Fire Buddies Program. Motion made by Mr. O'Rourke, seconded by Mr. Graf and Mr. Pietrzak at the same time. Motion carries (5 – 0).

ITEM E. PD – Time Promotion for Officers Garza and Paprocki

Chief Sormaz requested approval from the Board for the time promotion of Officer Gerardo Garza, Jr. and Officer Luke Paprocki from Probationary officer to 1st Class Patrolman, effective July 23, 2023. He went on to add that both officers were emergency hires and had five to seven years of experience as well as having completed six months of probation. Motion made by Mr. Pietrzak, seconded by Mr. Graf. Motion carries (5 – 0).

ITEM F. PD – Joint Interlocal and Mutual Aid Agreement for the South Lake County Crash Reconstruction Team (SLCCRT)

Chief Sormaz requested the Board approve Resolution 2023-01 recommending the Schererville Town Council allow the Police Department to participate in the Joint Interlocal and Mutual Aid Agreement for South Lake County Crash Reconstruction Team, of which nine other agencies are currently apart. Motion made by Mr. Pietrzak, seconded by Mr. Graf. Motion carries (5 – 0).

ITEM G. PD – Swearing in of three Reserve Officers

Chief Sormaz reminded the Board that approximately eighteen months ago the Police Department crafted policies for the Reserve Program. He went on to add that the three new officers would be sworn in tonight. Bradly Gibson, #500, Daniel Gin, # 501, and William Port, #502 were sworn in by Schererville Clerk Treasurer Mike Troxell.

ITEM H. PD – Sergeant Promotional Register

Chief Sormaz informed the Board that the current Sergeant Promotional Register will expire on July 8, 2023. He requested approval from the Board to commission Stanard and Associates to move forward with the creation of a new Sergeant's list. Motion made by Mr. Pietrzak, seconded by Mr. Graf. Motion carries (5 – 0).

ITEM I. PD – Live Saving Award for Officer Michael Osborn #221

Chief Sormaz made the Board aware of an incident that occurred on June 6, 2023. The driver of a vehicle was having a medical emergency at the intersection of Janice Drive and US Hwy 30, near Sophia's House of Pancakes. He went on to add that Officers Jeff Zemburski, Michael Osborn, and Corporal Dan Drexler responded to and assessed the scene, determining that the driver of the vehicle needed CPR which was administered by Officer Osborn. Chief Sormaz invited Sergeant Janson, Officer Osborn's supervisor, forward to speak. Sergeant Janson extolled the work ethic of Officer Osborn, stating he is always willing to help, never complains, and rarely makes the same mistake twice. He further added that when an officer on his shift makes a mistake, the whole crew sits down to discuss what happened so that it will not occur again. He also stated that when an officer acts exemplary, they also celebrated it as a shift. At this time, he invited Shift 2 to the front to stand with him as he read the accommodation he wrote for Officer Osborn.

Sergeant Janson read the accommodation and then advised those present that he received a phone call a few days after the incident occurred informing him that Mr. Walter Schultz survived the medical emergency. At this time, Kathy Schultz, the wife of Mr. Schultz came forward and expressed her admiration and gratitude for those that responded to the scene as well as the dispatcher who guided her while waiting for officers to arrive. Chief Sormaz congratulated Officer Osborn and presented him with the Life Saving Award.

THEREUPON, Reports

ITEM A. Police Chief

Chief Sormaz stated all the reports were in the packet.

For the month of May, 2023 the Patrol Division responded to 1,707 incidents and took 108 accident reports. There were 147 total arrests. The Patrol Division filed 155 charges of which 73 were Class A Misdemeanors, 31 were Class B Misdemeanors, 33 were Class C Misdemeanors, 1 Level 5 Felony, and 17 Level 6 Felonies. The Patrol Division served 77 total warrants. They performed 820 traffic stops resulting in 489 citations issued of which 130 were local ordinances and 359 were state infractions. 525 warnings were also issued. The Patrol Division performed 130 vehicle searches, of which 28 were K9 vehicle searches. There were 161 Proactive Patrols.

For the month of June, 2023 the Patrol Division responded to 1,910 incidents and took 115 accident reports. There were 153 total arrests. The Patrol Division filed 236 charges of which 69 were Class A Misdemeanors, 78 were Class B Misdemeanors, 59 were Class C Misdemeanors, 3 Level 5 Felonies, and 27 Level 6 Felonies. The Patrol Division served 81 total warrants. They performed 815 traffic stops resulting in 487 citations issued of which 112 were local ordinances and 375 were state infractions. 592 warnings were also issued. The Patrol Division performed 121 vehicle searches, of which 32 were K9 vehicle searches. There were 296 Proactive Patrols.

For the month of May, 2023, the Criminal Investigations Division filed 41 criminal charges, of which 21 were felony, 20 were misdemeanor, 11 were filed in Schererville Town Court, and 30 were filed in Lake County Court. The breakdown of the 51 cases being investigated by the Criminal Investigations Division for March: 24 Miscellaneous, 12 Theft/Shoplifting, 11 Fraud, 2 Drug, 1 Sex Offenses, 0 Auto Theft, 1 Burglary/Home Invasion, and 0 Battery/Domestic.

For the month of June, 2023, the Criminal Investigations Division filed 47 criminal charges, of which 25 were felony, 20 were misdemeanor, and 2 were Federal charges. 7 were filed in Schererville Town Court, 34 were filed in Lake County Court, and 4 were filed in the Lake County Juvenile Court. The breakdown of the 53 cases being investigated by the Criminal Investigations Division for June: 13 Miscellaneous, 15 Theft/Shoplifting, 8 Fraud, 11 Drugs/K9, 1 Sex Offenses, 2 Auto Thefts, 1 Burglary/Home Invasion, and 2 Battery/Domestic.

For the month of June, 2023, Schererville Police Officers attended 166.5 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. He further informed the Board that the Red Shift that was on duty for Mr. Schultz's medical emergency is currently working.

For the month of May, 2023, the Schererville Fire Department performed 22 inspections, responded to 341 incidents of which 282 were EMS related, 30 Fire related, 25 were Alarms/Investigations, and 4 were Fire Prevention, Inspections and or trainings. They also attended 685.55 hours of training.

For the month of June, 2023, the Schererville Fire Department performed 16 inspections, responded to 358 incidents of which 285 were EMS related, 39 Fire related, 28 were Alarms/Investigations, and 6 were Fire Prevention, Inspections and or trainings. They also attended 542.85 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. Kouros made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. O'Rourke. Motion carries (5 – 0). The meeting was adjourned at 6:59 p.m.

DAVID
SCHERERVILLE
SAFETY
A TRUE COPY

EENIGENBURG
BOARD OF
CHAIRMAN

RICHARD PIETRZAK
SCHERERVILLE BOARD OF
SAFETY VICE CHAIRMAN
A TRUE COPY