

TOWN OF SCHERERVILLE  
BOARD OF SAFETY MEETING

SCHERERVILLE, INDIANA  
May 5, 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, Michael O'Rourke, Richard Pietrzak, and George Kouros. 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 Christian Bartholomew in lieu of Attorney Alfredo Estrada. Absent: Deputy Fire Chief David Meyer and Attorney Alfredo Estrada.

THEREUPON, Approval of the Minutes

Mr. O'Rourke made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 7, 2022 Public Meeting, seconded by Mr. Pietrzak. Motion carries (5 – 0).

THEREUPON, Amendment of the Agenda

Chairman Graf requested a motion be made for the approval of an amendment to the agenda under New Business between letters "G" and "H" for an extra duty shift for the Fire Department. Motion made by Mr. Pietrzak, seconded by Mr. Eenigenburg. Motion carries (5 – 0).

THEREUPON, Correspondence

ITEM A. PD

Chief Sormaz advised the Board he received a thank-you note from Diane Horar, the Administrative Assistant at the Town Hall, in regards to a memoriam donation made by the Police Department on the passing of her sister.

ITEM B. FD

Chief Patterson informed the Board he received a thank-you letter from former Fire Chief Dave Crane's family for their participation and assistance in funeral events. Chief Patterson also made the Board aware that the Fire Department had also received a thank-you letter from Diane Horar. Finally, Chief Patterson disclosed to the Board he received a thank-you note from the Howe family for their participation and assistance in funeral events on the passing of Bill Howe, Sr.

THEREUPON, Old Business

ITEM A. PD – Emergency Hire Update

Deputy Chief McNamara reported to the Board that the deadline for the emergency hire process is Wednesday, May 11, 2022. Currently there are five applications that have been submitted. He further advised the Board that backgrounds have been started on those that had submitted applications.

ITEM B. FD – NONE

THEREUPON, New Business

ITEM A & B Combined FD – Approval to hire Part-Time Firefighter/EMT John Hiatt & Earlyne Long

Chief Patterson requested approval from the Board to hire part-time Firefighter/EMT John Hiatt and part-time Firefighter/EMT Earlyne Long. Motion made by Mr. Pietrzak, seconded by Mr. Eenigenburg. Motion carries (5 – 0).

ITEM C. FD – Approval of new Full-time hire list

Chief Patterson requested approval from the Board to approve the full-time hire list that they were presented with. Motion made by Mr. Pietrzak, seconded by Mr. O'Rourke. Discussion: Mr. O'Rourke asked how many were on the list, to which Chief Patterson replied three were on the list and two were qualified. Motion carries (5 – 0).

ITEM D. FD – Approval to offer conditional offer of employment to top qualified on list

Chief Patterson requested approval from the Board to give the conditional offer of employment to the top qualified candidates from the new full-time list. Motion made by Mr. Pietrzak, seconded by Mr. O'Rourke. Motion carries (5 – 0).

ITEM E. FD – Approval to promote Captain Steve Waterstraat to the rank of Battalion Chief

Chief Patterson requested approval from the Board to promote Captain Steve Waterstraat to Battalion Chief. Motion made by Mr. Pietrzak, seconded by Mr. Eenigenburg. Motion carries (5 – 0).

ITEM F. FD – Swearing in of Battalion Chief Steve Waterstraat

Battalion Chief Steve Waterstraat was sworn in by Schererville Clerk-Treasurer Mike Troxell. Battalion Chief Waterstraat was personally congratulated by Chairman Graf.

ITEM G. FD – Approval to promote Firefighter/Paramedic Valentino Trevino to the rank of Lieutenant

Chief Patterson requested approval from the Board to promote Firefighter/Paramedic Valentino Trevino to the rank of Lieutenant. Motion made by Mr. Pietrzak, seconded by Mr. Eenigenburg. Motion carries (5 – 0).

ITEM H. FD – Swearing in of Lieutenant Valentino Trevino

Lieutenant Valentino Trevino was sworn in by Schererville Clerk-Treasurer Mike Troxell. At this point, Father Mick Kopal, the Chaplain of the Schererville Fire Department, offered a prayer for the newly appointed Firefighters.

ITEM I. PD – Police Personnel Uniform and Dress Code Policy Update

Chief Sormaz requested approval from the Board for the Command Staff of the Police Department to move from French Blue pants to black pants for the Class A uniform and white shirts for the Class B uniform. Motion made by Mr. Pietrzak, seconded by Mr. Eenigenburg. Motion carries (5 – 0).

ITEM J. FD – Extra Duty shift for the Fire Department

Chief Patterson requested approval from the Board for an extra duty shift for the Fire Department so that he may present it to the Town Council and Town Attorney for approval. Motion made by Mr. Pietrzak, seconded by Mr. O'Rourke. Motion carries (5 – 0).

THEREUPON, Reports

ITEM A. Police Chief

Chief Sormaz updated the Board on the Police Memorial that would take place on Friday, May 20, 2022. The inspection would take place at 11 a.m. followed by the memorial at 12 p.m.

Chief Sormaz made the Board aware that on Saturday, April 30, 2022, the Schererville Police Department participated in the National Drug Take Back where unused prescriptions are turned in. He further disclosed to the Board that with Saturday's accumulation as well as the past year, the Department has collected 203.4 pounds of unused medication.

Mr. O'Rourke requested a quick rundown on the performance standard report. Patrol Commander Michael Bork advised the Board that April was the second full month of the performance standard. He further explained that after March a discussion was held with the Supervisors and Patrolman in regards to opinions on the scale of points and a few changes were made. Commander Bork disclosed to the Board that categories that were typically ignored in the past have garnered more attention, specifically community relations, and business checks. Overall, he feels that the new standard has been very successful and that numbers were up across the board.

For the month of April, 2022, the Patrol Division had 1,499 calls for service, 79 accidents, 127 Local Ordinance Citations, 344 State Infraction Citations, 148 total arrests, 232 total charges filed of which 98 were Class A Misdemeanors, 38 Class B Misdemeanors, 64 Class C Misdemeanors, and 32 Level 6 Felonies.

For the month of April, 2022, the Criminal Investigations Division filed 45 criminal charges, 17 thefts, 0 thefts from motor vehicles, and 0 burglaries.

For the month of April, 2022, Schererville Police Officers attended 195.5 hours of training.

For the month of April, 2022, the Animal Control Division had 31 calls for service and 0 bite reports. 7 new animals were taken in, 3 animals were adopted out, 2 animals were returned to owner/guardian and 4 animals were transported out.

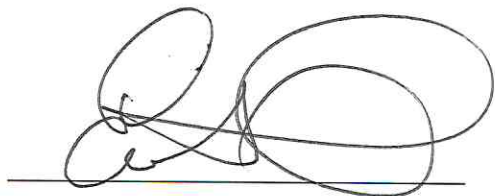
ITEM B. Fire Chief

Chief Patterson advised the reports were in the packet.

For the month of April, 2022, the Schererville Fire Department performed 97 inspections, responded to 311 incidents, and attended 885.5 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. Pietrzak made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Eenigenburg. Motion carries (5-0). The meeting was adjourned at 6:58 p.m.



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