

TOWN OF SCHERERVILLE

SCHERERVILLE, INDIANA

BOARD OF SAFETY MEETING

October 5, 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, 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, Director of Operations Andy Hansen, and Schererville Town Council President Tom Schmitt. Absent: Deputy Chief of Police Steven McNamara.

THEREUPON, Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Kouros made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 7, 2023 Public Meeting, seconded by Mr. O'Rourke. Motion carries (5 – 0).

THEREUPON, Correspondence

ITEM A. PD – Thank-you letter from Eric Graf of CN Railroad

Chief Sormaz advised the Board he had received a thank-you letter from Board Member, Eric Graf, in regards to a well-being check that Officer Galliher performed at his residence. He wanted to thank the officer for his professionalism.

ITEM B. FD – Thank-you letter from the Langlois Family

Chief Patterson informed the Board he had received a thank-you letter and gift certificate from the Langlois Family of Deep River, Connecticut. The family was passing through town when their vehicle broke down near Station 1. The on duty crew helped them find a mechanic to repair their vehicle.

THEREUPON, Old Business

ITEM A. PD – New Hire Process Update

Chief Sormaz advised the Board that Brett Bandstra accepted the conditional offer of employment and is currently going through the 1977 Pension Fund process.

ITEM C. FD – NONE

THEREUPON, New Business

ITEM A. FD – Approval of Job Status Change for Three People

Chief Patterson requested approval from the Board for the Job Status change of three people:

Alex Bruskoski from Firefighter/Paramedic Entry Level to 3rd Class Firefighter/Paramedic
Tim Jenkins and Nick Minkema from Firefighter/EMT Entry Level to 3rd Class Firefighter/EMT. Motion made by Mr. O'Rourke, seconded by Mr. Pietrzak. Motion carries (5 – 0).

ITEM B. FD – Swearing in of Firefighter/EMT Jason Noto

Firefighter/EMT Jason Noto was sworn in by Deputy Clerk-Treasurer Kristie Klein.

ITEM C. FD – Awards Ceremony

Chief Patterson requested Battalion Chief Jon Gettemans and the crew receiving the awards come to the front of the room. Jon Gettemans, Battalion Chief of the Black Shift, advised the Board, that on February 11, 2023, the Fire Department received a call for a structure fire with a caller inside of the residence. Former Captain, now Lieutenant, Valentino Trevino and Firefighter/EMT Nicholas Minkema made entry into the residence under heavy smoke conditions, providing fire extinguishment while searching for the victim, soon found by Firefighter/EMT Minkema and assisted by Lieutenant Trevino in removing the victim outside. While Lieutenant Trevino and Firefighter/EMT Minkema made entry into the residence, Firefighter/EMT Aaron Anderson pulled 100 feet of 5 inch hose, alone, hooked the hose to a hydrant, and then returned to operate the pump panel on truck 8011.

Once the victim was outside, Firefighter/EMT Anderson assisted Lieutenant Trevino and Firefighter/EMT Minkema with patient care. Care of the victim was transferred to Firefighter/EMT's Dominic Zuccarelli and Dylon Vick upon their arrival on scene, with aggressive ALS care provided by Firefighter/EMT Zuccarelli. After care of the victim was transferred, Firefighter/EMT Anderson returned to his engineering duties, ensuring water was supplied, while Lieutenant Trevino and Firefighter/EMT Minkema made entry back into the residence for fire suppression operations. With the rapid response of this crew, a life was saved and the fire was stopped from spreading to the adjoining duplex.

Chief Patterson noted that Battalion Chief Gettemans was also on scene fighting the fire ensuring Lieutenant Trevino and Firefighter/EMT Minkema could make entry to the residence and search for the victim.

Chief Patterson awarded the Medal of Courage to Lieutenant Valentino Trevino and Firefighter/EMT Nicholas Minkema for their actions and bravery on February 11, 2023.

Chief Patterson awarded the Unit Citation to Battalion Chief Jon Gettemans, Firefighter/EMT Aaron Anderson, Firefighter/Paramedic Dominic Zuccarelli, and Firefighter/EMT Dylon Vick for their assistance with patient care and assisting with the rescue of the patient.

Chief Patterson thanked all of those that received the awards and advised them they made him proud as a Fire Chief.

ITEM D. PD – Retirement Letter from Matthew Djukic

Chief Sormaz requested the Board to accept the retirement letter from Detective Corporal Matthew Djukic. His last day of work is December 12, 2023, with his final pay on March 17, 2024. Motion made by Mr. Pietrzak, seconded by Mr. O'Rourke. Motion carries (5 – 0).

ITEM E. PD – Time Promotion for Matthew Voss

Chief Sormaz the Board approve the Board for the time promotion of Officer Matthew Voss from Probationary Officer to 1st Class Patrolman, effective October 15, 2023. Officer Voss was an emergency hire with approximately five years' experience. Motion made by Mr. Graff, seconded by Mr. Pietrzak. Motion carries (5 – 0).

THEREUPON, Reports

ITEM A. Police Chief

Chief Sormaz wanted to recognize the Board of Safety Attorney, Alfredo Estrada whom was honored for his contributions to diversity.

Chief Sormaz updated the Board as to the annual Halloween event (trick-or-treat) from 5pm to 7pm on October 31, 2023. He went on to add that officers would be present in all neighborhoods.

Chief Sormaz notified the Board of the 3rd Annual K9 Unit Fundraiser held at 5384 72nd Avenue from 5pm to 8pm on October 13, 2023.

Chief Sormaz made the Board aware that the Bash for the Blue and Camo 2 held at the Halls of St. George, from 6pm to 12am also on October 13, 2023.

Chief Sormaz stated all the reports were in the packet.

For the month of August, 2023 the Patrol Division responded to 1,829 incidents and took 91 accident reports. There were 192 total arrests. The Patrol Division filed 237 charges of which 98 were Class A Misdemeanors, 34 were Class B Misdemeanors, 76 were Class C Misdemeanors, and 29 Level 6 Felonies. The Patrol Division served 97 total warrants. They performed 1,080 traffic stops resulting in 538 citations issued of which 151 were local ordinances and 387 were state infractions. 679 warnings were also issued. The Patrol Division performed 165 vehicle searches, of which 57 were K9 vehicle searches. There were 307 Proactive Patrols.

For the month of September, 2023, the Patrol Division reports were unavailable.

For the month of September, 2023, the Criminal Investigations Division filed 27 criminal charges, of which 14 were felony, and 13 were misdemeanor. 5 were filed in Schererville Town Court, 16 were filed in Lake County Court, and 6 were filed in Lake Juvenile court. The breakdown of the 54 cases being investigated by the Criminal Investigations Division for September: 16 Miscellaneous, 25 Theft/Shoplifting, 4 Fraud, 3 Drugs/K9/Overdose, 2 Sex Offenses, 1 Auto Theft, 2 Burglary/Home Invasion, and 1 Battery/Domestic/Fight.

For the month of September, 2023, Schererville Police Officers attended 325.5 hours of training.

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

ITEM B. Fire Chief

Chief Patterson informed the Board that Saturday, October 7, 2023 the Department is hosting their annual Open House at Station #2, 280 Plum Creek Drive from 11am to 2pm.

Chief Patterson apologized to Father Mick Kopal, the chaplain of the Schererville Fire Department as he had a prayer for the newly sworn Firefighter as well as those who received the award. Father Kopal came to the front and offered a prayer.

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

For the month of September, 2023, the Schererville Fire Department performed 21 inspections, responded to 315 incidents of which 262 were EMS related, 22 Fire related, 28 were Alarms/Investigations, and 3 were Fire Prevention, Inspections and or trainings. They also attended 500.15 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. Kouros 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.

DAVID SCHERERVILLE SAFETY <u>A TRUE COPY</u>	EENIGENBURG BOARD OF CHAIRMAN	RICHARD PIETRZAK SCHERERVILLE BOARD OF SAFETY VICE CHAIRMAN <u>A TRUE COPY</u>
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