

TOWN OF SCHERERVILLE

SCHERERVILLE, INDIANA

BOARD OF SAFETY MEETING

October 2, 2025

The Board of Safety Meeting was called to order by Chairman Eric Graf at 5:20 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, David Jaroszewski, David Eenigenburg, George Kouros, 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, Director of Operations Andrew Hansen, and Town Council Liaison Tom Schmitt.

THEREUPON, Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Jaroszewski made a motion to approve the minutes of the September 4, 2025, Regular Public Meeting, seconded by Mr. Volkmann. Motion carries (5 – 0).

THEREUPON, Correspondence

ITEM A. FD – Thank you from Plum Creek Resident

Chief Patterson informed the Board he had received a thank-you note from a resident of the Plum Creek Subdivision. The resident brought her children to a Fire Station and wanted to express her gratitude to Captain Natalie Ferrantella for not only her thoughtfulness in showing her children the Fire Station, but her kindness to them as well.

ITEM B. PD – NONE

THEREUPON, Old Business

ITEM A. FD – NONE

ITEM B. PD – NONE

THEREUPON, New Business

ITEM A. FD – Approval to Hire Part-Time Employee

Chief Patterson requested approval from the Board to hire one part-time Firefighter/EMT, Gabrielle Szumlas, to fill an open slot. Motion made by Mr. Volkmann, seconded by Mr. Eenigenburg. Motion carries (5 – 0).

ITEM B. PD – Recommendation Resolution to Update Fee Schedule

Chief Sormaz presented to the Board two resolutions – 2031 – Tow Fees, and 2032 – Miscellaneous Fees – for approval, to take before the Schererville Town Council to update the Departments' pricing structure. Motion made by Mr. Jaroszewski, seconded by Mr. Volkmann. Mr. Volkmann inquired as to the current fee for tow releases, to which Chief Sormaz replied forty dollars (\$40.00). The resolution is an increase of ten dollars (\$10.00) making the new fee fifty dollars (\$50.00). Chief Sormaz elaborated further, stating resolution 2032 also updates the language of resolution, as the original states "video tapes" which the Department no longer uses. Attorney Bartholomew elucidated further, advising the Board the resolutions are written in the form of an ordinance, but the purpose of the Board was to recommend to the Schererville Town Council to pass the resolutions. Motion carries (5 – 0).

ITEM C. PD – Conditional Offer – Brendon Grabowski

Chief Sormaz recommended the Board extend the conditional offer of employment to the number one applicant on the current list, Brendon Grabowski. Motion made by Mr. Eenigenburg, seconded by Mr. Jaroszewski. Chairman Graf put on record that Mr. Grabowski was the most impressive oral interview candidate that he had ever encountered. Motion carries (5 – 0).

ITEM D. PD – Recommendation to suspend New Hire List

Chief Sormaz recommended the Board suspended the current Eligibility List. Motion made by Mr. Jaroszewski, seconded by Mr. Volkmann. Motion carries (5 – 0).

ITEM E. PD – Recommendation to initiate Emergency Hire

Chief Sormaz recommended the Board initiate an Emergency Hire Process, effective immediately. Motion made by Mr. Volkmann, seconded by Mr. Jaroszewski. Motion carries (5 – 0).

ITEM F. PD – Time Promotion Officer Nicholas Flahive

Chief Sormaz requested approval from the Board for the time promotion from Probationary Patrolman to 1st Class Patrolman for Officer Nicholas Flahive, effective October 26, 2025. He further explained that Officer Flahive joined the Department with prior law enforcement experience and had completed all necessary requirements during his probationary period. Motion made by Mr. Volkmann, seconded by Mr. Jaroszewski. Motion carries (5 – 0).

ITEM G. PD – General Order 07.04 – Body-Worn Camera and In-Car Video System Policy

Chief Sormaz informed the Board that the Department currently has in-car video systems with audio, and is in the process of equipping officers with body-worn cameras. With the incorporation of the body-worn cameras, the policy, upon review by Training Coordinator Ryan Staley and Attorney Bartholomew, has been amended accordingly. Chief Sormaz recommended the Board pass the policy, General Order 07.04, as presented. Motion made by Mr. Eenigenburg, seconded by Mr. Jaroszewski. Chairman Graf, added that, as an employee who wears a body-worn camera, they are a wonderful and enhance officer safety, and welcomed Chief Sormaz to new policing. Motion carries (5 – 0).

THEREUPON, Reports

ITEM A. Police Chief

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

For the month of August, 2025, the Patrol Division responded to 1,491 incidents and took 92 accident reports. There were 100 total arrests. The Patrol Division filed 150 charges of which 57 were Class A Misdemeanors, 25 were Class B Misdemeanors, 36 were Class C Misdemeanors, and 32 were Level 6 Felonies. The Patrol Division served 61 total warrants. They performed 599 traffic stops resulting in 291 citations issued of which 62 were local ordinances and 229 were state infractions. 363 warnings were also issued. The Patrol Division performed 109 vehicle searches, of which 25 were K9 vehicle searches. There were 126 Proactive Patrols.

For the month of August, 2025, the Criminal Investigations Division (CID) filed 55 criminal charges which were the result of 22 cases. Of these charges, 34 were felony and 21 were misdemeanor. 42 were filed in Lake County Court, 9 were filed in Schererville Town Court, and 4 were filed in the Lake County Juvenile Court. The CID is investigating 93 incidents for the month of August. Detective Corporal Ian Segovia was the Detective of the month along with Detective Mendez and Officer Luke Paprocki, whom is a part of the Cross Trained Detective (CTD) program.

For the month of September, 2025, Schererville Police Officers attended 943 hours of training..

For the month of September, 2025, the Animal Control Division had 52 calls for service, 2 bite reports, and took in 3 animals.

ITEM B. Fire Chief

Fire Chief Patterson advised the Board that all of the reports were in the packet. He also reminded the Board of the annual Fire Department Open House slated for October 4, 2025, from 11am to 2pm at Fire Station #2, located at 280 Plum Creek Drive.

For the month of September, 2025, the Schererville Fire Department performed 105 inspections, responded to 321 incidents of which 257 were EMS related, 31 were Fire related, 28 were Alarms/Investigations, and 05 were Fire Prevention, Inspection and/or training. They also attended 509.98 total hours of training of which 324.98 were Fire Trainings, 175 were EMS Trainings, and 10 were Leadership Trainings. 23 personnel signed off on skills required for recertification and 40 personnel completed the Schererville Title VI training.

ITEM C. Attorney – Introduction of New Associate

Attorney Bartholomew introduced Julia, a new associate with the law firm, whom he invited to the meeting to observe the proceedings firsthand as she has been providing ancillary support on various Safety and Merit Board issues.

THEREUPON, Board Members Chairman Graf

Chairman Graf apologized to Chief Patterson as he neglected to thank both him and the Fire Department at the September, 2025, meeting, for their continued support of National Rail Safety Week.

THEREUPON, Business from the Floor NONE

THEREUPON, Adjournment

There being no further business, Mr. Eenigenburg made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Jaroszewski. Motion carries (5 – 0). The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 pm.

ERIC SCHERERVILLE SAFETY <u>A TRUE COPY</u>	GRAF BOARD OF CHAIRMAN	GEORGE KOUROS SCHERERVILLE BOARD OF SAFETY VICE CHAIRMAN <u>A TRUE COPY</u>
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