

TOWN OF SCHERERVILLE  
FIRE MERIT BOARD MEETING

SCHERERVILLE, INDIANA  
November 6, 2025

The Fire Department Merit Board Meeting was called to order by President Roger Florkiewicz at 6:11 p.m., in the Schererville Town Hall Meeting Room, 10 E. Joliet Street, Schererville, IN.

Attendance was taken with the following Board Members present: President Roger Florkiewicz, Vice President Tim Arvanitis, Secretary Paul Petrie, and David Turoci. Staff members present: Fire Chief Robert Patterson and Recording Secretary Jenn Chatel. Also present: Attorney Christian Bartholomew and Assistant Chief Jon Gettemans. Not present were Board Member Tom Fulk and Staff member Deputy Fire Chief David Meyer.

THEREUPON, Approval of the Minutes

Secretary Paul Petrie made a motion to approve the minutes of the October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025 meeting, seconded by Mr. David Turoci. Motion Carries (4 – 0).

THEREUPON, Correspondence

ITEM A. Fire Department - NONE

THEREUPON, Old Business

ITEM A. FD – Continue reviewing of merit board rules

Attorney Bartholomew stated his office has been working on it and after discussions with Attorney David Austgen, he is anticipating having a copy of the proposed revisions for the Board to review by the next meeting date. He stated he expects to have some clarification regarding part time firefighters and third party vendor for the hiring process along with smaller general matters; however, there won't be extensive changes to the rules. Following distribution, the Board may schedule a study session if additional time is needed to review the material. If the Board is able to approve the proposed rules by the following meeting, a public meeting will be scheduled for formal adoption with implementation anticipated early next year.

ITEM B. FD-Update on Full-time Firefighter/EMT hiring status

Chief Patterson reported the candidate with the conditional offer of employment has completed the psychological evaluation as well as the physical evaluation and just awaiting the results. Once result forms are received, a meeting will be set up with the PERF Board to review.

Attorney Bartholomew posed a question if new applications are being received since we offered employment to last candidate on the list. Chief Patterson informed the Board applications are being received online utilizing the same process previously used and the deadline for applying is November 14<sup>th</sup>. Attorney Bartholomew noted according to the statute, once all the applications are received, they should be filed with the Board, then can proceed with the selection process in which Chief Patterson commented would include selecting two Board members to grade the online portion and be present for the in person interviews. It was noted the after the application period closes, we will follow up at the next meeting.

ITEM C. FD – Setting hearing date for personnel actions -Tim Jenkins

Schererville Firefighters Professional Union Local 4279 Secretary Collin Zackavec appeared before the Merit Board presenting a letter from Firefighter Tim Jenkins, who was unable to attend the meeting. In the letter, Tim informed the Board that since the last meeting he attempted the Paramedic National Registry exam and achieved a score just below the passing threshold, demonstrating continued effort toward meeting the required professional qualification. He indicated there are no new updates on the fact-finding process related to his hearing. Tim requested that his disciplinary hearing be set for the Merit Board's next meeting date on December 4<sup>th</sup>. Local 4279 Secretary Zackavec also noted Firefighter Jenkins' intention to make at least one additional attempt at the exam prior to the end of the 90 day extension date of November 20<sup>th</sup>.

A motion to schedule a hearing for December 4<sup>th</sup> and grant an additional extension to the soonest date that can be facilitated at or around the next meeting was so moved by Secretary Paul Petrie. No second was given, rather Vice President Arvanitis gave alternate motion that the Board already granted a 90 day extension and states they should honor that deadline and have a hearing meeting November 20<sup>th</sup> unless there are any exigent circumstances. Secretary Petrie rescinds his motion for extension to December 4<sup>th</sup>. David Turoci seconds the motion to have meeting by November 20<sup>th</sup> in order to discuss it further. Attorney Bartholomew advises the Board that they would also need a hearing officer, presumably the Town Council Attorney David Austgen, so date would depend on his availability as well. Upon further discussion the Board realized the contingencies to make that happen would be the 14 day notice required to Firefighter Jenkins falls on that current day (November 6<sup>th</sup>). Also, with Thanksgiving being the following week, the Board ends up back at the next meeting date of December 4<sup>th</sup>. Motion to have meeting by November 20<sup>th</sup> was put to a vote and Motion Rejected (4-0)

David Turoci made a motion to extend the deadline to no later than December 4<sup>th</sup>, seconded by Vice President Arvanitis. Motion Carries (4-0)

Attorney Bartholomew advised he would contact Attorney Austgen the following day (November 7<sup>th</sup>) to confirm his availability for December 4<sup>th</sup>. If he is not available, a list of alternate dates will be presented to the Board.

THEREUPON,            New Business

ITEM A.            FD – Setting hearing date for personnel actions -Enrique Pulido

Attorney Bartholomew explained this was a personnel action brought forward at the recommendation of the Fire Chief. The action concerned Firefighter Pulido's failure to meet certain requirements. Notice was issued to Firefighter Pulido in which he responded requesting a hearing.

Schererville Firefighters Professional Union Local 4279 Secretary Collin Zackavec appeared before the Board to request a 90-day continuance citing circumstances that affected Firefighter Pulido's ability to complete the required testing. These included an on-duty injury sustained in July, followed by approximately 45 days of inpatient mental-health treatment in Virginia during which he had no access to educational materials, limited email access, and no ability to study or test. Secretary Zackavec emphasized that mental-health recovery was the primary focus of that period. He further remarked the upon returning home, Firefighter Pulido resumed worker's compensation requirements including medical follow-ups, MRIs and evaluations with treating physicians. Secretary Zackavec reported that Firefighter Pulido stated he continues to experience physical pain that sometimes limits his ability to study. He asserted that despite these setbacks, Firefighter Pulido has been improving and came very close to passing the exam on his most recent attempt and that Firefighter Pulido has shown progress towards his ability to pass and receive his paramedic license.

Attorney Bartholomew noted the Board also received correspondence from Deputy Chief Meyer expressing concerns and opposition to granting an extension due to departmental staffing conditions. Attorney Bartholomew indicated that all Board members had been provided with that letter and had an opportunity to review it and now the Board must determine whether to schedule a disciplinary hearing within the next 30 days or to grant an extension. President Florkiewicz clarified that there is both a paramedic issue and an EMT issue.

Secretary Paul Petrie motioned to table this until the December 4<sup>th</sup> meeting to allow time to see if Firefighter Pulido makes any progress on the certifications, which was seconded by Mr. David Turoci. Motion Carries (4-0)

President Florkiewicz reiterated that the Board would table the matter until the December meeting, with the intention of allowing additional time for progress on the EMT/paramedic certification requirements. He clarified the Board was not granting a 90-day extension, but rather postponing the matter for one month to evaluate progress and determine the appropriate next steps.

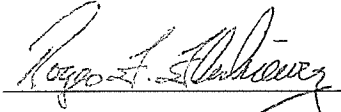
THEREUPON,            Reports – NONE

THEREUPON,            Business from the Floor - NONE

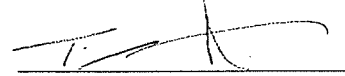
THEREUPON,            Board Members- NONE

THEREUPON,           Adjournment

There being no further business, David Turoci made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Vice President Tim Arvanitis. Motion carries (4 – 0). The meeting was adjourned at 6:34 p.m.



ROGER                      FLORKIEWICZ  
SCHERERVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT  
MERIT    BOARD        PRESIDENT  
A TRUE COPY



TIM ARVANITIS  
SCHERERVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT  
MERIT BOARD VICE PRESIDENT  
A TRUE COPY