

TOWN OF SCHERERVILLE
BOARD OF SAFETY MEETING

SCHERERVILLE, INDIANA
December 4, 2025

The Board of Safety Meeting was called to order by Chairman Eric Graf at 5:15 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, 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. Absent: David Eenigenburg.

THEREUPON, Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Jaroszewski made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 6, 2025, Regular Public Meeting, seconded by Mr. Volkmann. Motion carries (4 – 0).

THEREUPON, Correspondence

ITEM A. FD – NONE

ITEM B. PD – NONE

THEREUPON, Old Business

ITEM A. FD – NONE

ITEM B. PD – Emergency Hire Update Process

Deputy Chief McNamara advised the Board that the Emergency Hire Process had been completed. He requested permission from the Board to offer the conditional offer of employment to Joseph Thanas, whom has had approximately five years of law enforcement experience as an Officer in Anderson, Indiana, with an additional five years of military experience. Deputy Chief McNamara also thanked Mr. Volkmann for his assistance during the interview process. Motion made by Mr. Jaroszewski, seconded by Mr. Volkmann. Motion carries (4 – 0).

THEREUPON, New Business

ITEM A. FD – Approval of Vacation Roll Over from 2025-2026

Chief Patterson requested approval from the Board for the vacation roll over from 2025 to 2026. Motion made by Mr. Volkmann, seconded by Mr. Jaroszewski. Motion carries (4 – 0).

ITEM B. FD – Years of Service Awards

Chief Patterson recognized the following people for their years of service:

- Ryan Abens – 5 years of service
- Phil Hiser – 10 years of service
- Nick Ricards – 10 years of service
- Wayen Swart – 15 years of service
- David Meyer – 25 years of service

Chairman Graf thanked the Firemen for their years of service and dedication.

ITEM C. PD – Resignation of Reserve Officer Bradley Gibson

Chief Sormaz notified the Board he had received the resignation letter from Reserve Officer Bradley Gibson on November 17, 2025. He went on to add that Bradley had served with the department for two years and had accepted a full-time position with IU Health in Southern Indiana. Chief Sormaz wished him the best of luck and recommended the Board accept his resignation. Motion made by Mr. Jaroszewski, seconded by Mr. Volkmann. Motion carries (4 – 0).

ITEM D. PD – Time Promotion of Brett Bandstra to the rank of 1st Class Patrolman

Chief Sormaz requested approval from the Board for the time promotion from 2nd Class Patrolman to 1st Class Patrolman for Officer Brett Bandstra, effective December 22, 2025. He further explained that Officer Bandstra had completed all the necessary requirements for Probationary, 3rd Class, and 2nd Class. Chief Sormaz also informed the Board there were letters of recommendation from Officer Bandstra's immediate Supervisor as well as the Patrol Commander. Motion made by Mr. Jaroszewski, seconded by Mr. Volkmann. Motion carries (4 – 0).

ITEM E. PD – Animal Control Ordinance Updates

Chief Sormaz informed the Board that he and the Director of Operations, Andy Hansen, had been working the past few months on the Animal Control Ordinances for operational and ordinance alignment. He recommended the Board approve Resolution 2025-2, items A, B, and C for him to take before the Town Council. These items are the Animal Ordinance Licensing, Animal Ordinance Adoption, and Animal Ordinance Humane Treatment. Chief Sormaz went on to summarize each ordinance including simplified wording and updated pricing. The fourth agenda item, Animal Control Permits, will be removed from the agenda and not recommended for a resolution. Motion made by Mr. Jaroszewski, seconded by Mr. Volkmann. Motion carries (4 – 0).

THEREUPON, Reports

ITEM A. Police Chief

Chief Sormaz advised the Board that all the reports were in the packet. He wished everyone a happy holiday and congratulated the Firemen on their years of service and dedication to the community.

For the month of October, 2025, the Patrol Division responded to 1,386 incidents and took 101 accident reports. There were 78 total arrests. The Patrol Division filed 141 charges of which 56 were Class A Misdemeanors, 28 were Class B Misdemeanors, 43 were Class C Misdemeanors, 1 was a Level 5 Felony, and 13 were Level 6 Felonies. The Patrol Division served 65 total warrants. They performed 617 traffic stops resulting in 371 citations issued of which 140 were local ordinances and 231 were state infractions. 345 warnings were also issued. The Patrol Division performed 99 vehicle searches, of which 12 were K9 vehicle searches. There were 120 Proactive Patrols.

For the month of October, 2025, the Criminal Investigations Division (CID) filed 51 criminal charges which were the result of 18 cases. Of these charges, 28 were felony, 21 were misdemeanor, and 2 were Federal. 40 were filed in Lake County Court, 9 were filed in Schererville Town Court, and 2 were filed in Federal Court. The CID is investigating 49 incidents from the month of September. Detective Mendez was the Detectives of the month.

For the month of October, 2025, Officers attended 604 hours of training.

For the month of November, 2025, Officers attended 154 hours of training.

For the month of November, 2025, the Animal Control Division had 30 calls for service, 1 bite report and took in 4 animals. There were 2 adoptions for month. 2025 adoption total is 25 animals.

ITEM B. Fire Chief

Fire Chief Patterson informed the Board he had no additional reports other than what was in the packet.

For the month of November, 2025, the Schererville Fire Department performed 94 inspections, responded to 322 incidents of which 265 were EMS related, 27 were Fire related, and 30 were Alarms/Investigations. They also attended 621.4 total hours of training of which 305.9 were Fire Trainings, 301.5 were EMS Trainings, and 14 were Leadership Trainings.

ITEM C. Attorney – NONE

THEREUPON, Board Members

Mr. Kouros and Mr. Volkmann

Mr. Kouros congratulated the Firemen for their years of service. Mr. Volkman too congratulated the Firemen and all of the towns' Public Service Employees.

THEREUPON, Adjournment

There being no further business, Mr. Volkmann made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Jaroszewski. Motion carries (4 – 0). The meeting was adjourned at 5:28 pm.

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