

TOWN OF SCHERERVILLE

SCHERERVILLE, INDIANA

BOARD OF SAFETY MEETING

January 8, 2026

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, David Eenigenburg, and Robert Volkmann (remote). 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. Eenigenburg made a motion to approve the minutes of the November 6, 2025, Regular Public Meeting, seconded by Mr. Jaroszewski. Due to Mr. Volkmann attending remotely, a roll call vote was called for by Chairman Graf. The Board voted as follows:

- Eric Graf: “Yes”
- George Kouros: “Yes”
- David Eenigenburg: “Yes”
- David Jaroszewski: “Yes”
- Robert Volkmann: “Yes”

Motion carries (5 – 0).

THEREUPON, Correspondence

ITEM A. FD – Thank you letters

Chief Patterson informed the Board he had received thank you notes from Joyce & Kurtis Koch for services rendered to Kurtis, the Ladies of the 1st Baptist Church of Schererville for their services to the town, and from Elisa Mercado for their assistance with a juvenile.

ITEM B. PD – NONE

THEREUPON, Old Business

ITEM A. FD – NONE

ITEM B. PD – Emergency Hire Update Process

Chief Sormaz reminded the Board that in November, 2025, the New Eligibility List was suspended and an Emergency Hire List was initiated. On January 5, 2026, two officers were sworn in, one from each list. He recommended the Board close the Emergency Hire List and re-instate the New Eligibility List. Chairman Graf advised those present the Board would vote in two parts. Motion made by Mr. Jaroszewski to close the Emergency Hire List, seconded by Mr. Eenigenburg. The Board votes as follows:

- Eric Graf: “Yes”
- George Kouros: “Yes”
- David Eenigenburg: “Yes”
- David Jaroszewski: “Yes”
- Robert Volkmann: “Yes”

Motion carries (5 – 0).

Motion made by Mr. Jaroszewski to re-instate the New Eligibility List, seconded by Mr. Eenigenburg. The Board votes as follows:

- Eric Graf: “Yes”
- George Kouros: “Yes”
- David Eenigenburg: “Yes”
- David Jaroszewski: “Yes”
- Robert Volkmann: “Yes”

Motion carries (5 – 0).

THEREUPON, New Business

ITEM A. Officer Elections

Motion made by Mr. Eenigenburg for Mr. Graf to continue in the role as Chairman, Mr. Kouros to continue in the role as Vice Chairman, and for Mr. Jaroszewski to continue in the role as Secretary. Mr. Graf inquired if there were different nominations than those presented. There were no other nominations. Mr. Volkmann seconded the motion. The board voted as follows:

- Eric Graf: “Yes”
- George Kouros: “Yes”
- David Eenigenburg: “Yes”
- David Jaroszewski: “Yes”
- Robert Volkmann: “Yes”

Motion carries (5 – 0).

ITEM B. FD – Hire 6 New Part-time Firefighter/EMT’s

Chief Patterson requested approval from the Board to hire six part-time employees. Chairman Graf inquired of Attorney Bartholomew if the names should be read to which he replied if the Fire Chief had the list of names, he could read them. Below are the candidates:

- Kaiden Porch - Jayden Clifford
- Andrew Sharp - Jose Bugarin
- Matthew Friday - Phillip Baker

Motion made by Mr. Eenigenburg, seconded by Mr. Jaroszewski. The Board voted as follows:

- Eric Graf: “Yes”
- George Kouros: “Yes”
- David Eenigenburg: “Yes”
- David Jaroszewski: “Yes”
- Robert Volkmann: “Yes”

Motion carries (5 – 0).

ITEM C. PD – New Sergeant & Corporal Lists

Chief Sormaz requested approval from the Board to move forward with the new Sergeant and Corporal list as the current ones expire in March, 2026. Motion made by Mr. Jaroszewski, seconded by Mr. Eenigenburg. The Board voted as follows:

- Eric Graf: “Yes”
- George Kouros: “Yes”
- David Eenigenburg: “Yes”
- David Jaroszewski: “Yes”
- Robert Volkmann: “Yes”

Motion carries (5 – 0).

THEREUPON, Reports

ITEM A. Police Chief

Chief Sormaz advised the Board that all the reports were in the packet and thanked the Board for all their assistance and service in 2025.

For the month of November, 2025, the Patrol Division responded to 1,293 incidents and took 98 accident reports. There were 85 total arrests. The Patrol Division filed 120 charges. The Patrol Division served 55 total warrants. They performed 470 traffic stops resulting in 268 citations issued of which 68 were local ordinances and 200 were state infractions. 282 warnings were also issued. The Patrol Division performed 80 vehicle searches, of which 8 were K9 vehicle searches. There were 91 Proactive Patrols.

For the month of November, 2025, the Criminal Investigations Division (CID) filed 70 criminal charges which were the result of 28 cases. Of these charges, 43 were felony, 23 were misdemeanor, and 4 were Federal. 54 were filed in Lake County Court, 6 were filed in Schererville Town Court, 4 were filed in Federal Court, and 6 were filed in juvenile court. The CID is investigating 17 incidents from the month of November. Detectives Savich and Knight were the detectives of the month.

For the month of December, 2025, the Criminal Investigations Division (CID) filed 78 criminal charges which were the result of 28 cases. Of these charges, 48 were felony, 28 were misdemeanor, and 2 were Federal. 61 were filed in Lake County Court, 4 were filed in Schererville Town Court, 2 were filed in Federal Court, and 11 were filed in juvenile court. The CID is investigating 71 incidents from the month of December. Detectives Buonadonna, Mendez, and Savich were the detectives of the month.

For the year, 2025, the Criminal Investigations Division (CID) filed 702 criminal charges which were the result of 260 cases. Of these charges, 385 were felony, 296 were misdemeanor, and 21 were Federal. 558 were filed in Lake County Court, 85 were filed in Schererville Town Court, 21 were filed in Federal Court, and 38 were filed in juvenile court. There were 807 incidents handled by the Detective Bureau in 2025.

For the month of December, 2025, the training hours were unavailable.

For the month of December, 2025, the Animal Control Division had 21 calls for service, 2 bite reports and took in 4 animals. There were 6 adoptions for month. 2025 adoption total is 31 animals.

For the year 2025, the Animal Control Division had 481 calls for service, 15 bite reports and took in 64 animals. The Records Department issued 958 dog and cat licenses for 2025, of which 92 were for cats and 866 were for dogs. The Animal Control Division issued 31 citations and 15 written warnings for 2025. There were 6 adoptions for month. 2025 adoption total is 31 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 December, 2025, the Schererville Fire Department performed 17 inspections, responded to 385 incidents of which 323 were EMS related, 27 were Fire related, and 35 were Alarms/Investigations. They also attended 372.8 total hours of training of which 230.3 were Fire Trainings, 124.5 were EMS Trainings, and 18 were Leadership Trainings.

ITEM C. Attorney – Fire Department Merit Board

Attorney Bartholomew advised the Board that the Fire Department Merit Board anticipates taking action related to hiring at its scheduled meeting, tonight, January 8, 2026, to fill two full-time vacancies within the department. The Merit Board has compiled a list of eligible candidates whom have successfully completed the selection process. Once approved and signed, the list will be submitted to the Board of Safety. Attorney Bartholomew further reported that, after reviewing the relevant state statutes, there is ambiguity regarding the appointment authority. He elaborated further, stating, in his legal opinion, the authority to hire resides with the Merit Board. Nonetheless, the certified list will be presented to the Board of Safety. Mr. Kouros inquired how many people were on the list, to which Attorney Bartholomew replied eleven, but asked for confirmation from Chief Patterson who responded there were fifteen.

THEREUPON, Board Members

Mr. Jaroszewski

Mr. Jaroszewski wished Chief Sormaz a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

THEREUPON, Business from the Floor

NONE

THEREUPON, Adjournment

There being no further business, Mr. Jaroszewski made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Eenigenburg. The Board did not hold a roll call vote for this motion. Motion carries (5 – 0). The meeting was adjourned at 5:28 pm.

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CHAIRMAN

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