

TOWN OF SCHERERVILLE

SCHERERVILLE, INDIANA

BOARD OF SAFETY MEETING

April 3, 2025

The Board of Safety Meeting was called to order by Chairman Eric Graf at 5:28 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, 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 Thomas Schmitt. Absent: David Jaroszewski.

THEREUPON, Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Volkmann made a motion to approve the minutes of the March 6, 2025, Regular Public Meeting, seconded by Mr. Eenigenburg. 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”
- Robert Volkmann: “I”

Motion carries (4 – 0).

THEREUPON, Correspondence

ITEM A. FD – Thank-you letter from First Merchants Bank

Chief Patterson advised the Board he had received a thank-you letter from First Merchants Bank thanking them for their service due to several false alarms at the establishment.

ITEM B. FD – Thank-you letter from Munster Police Department

Chief Patterson made the Board aware he had received a thank-you letter from the Munster Police Department for their assistance with the funeral procession of their fallen officer, Ryan Perez.

ITEM C. PD – Thank-you letter from Munster Police Department

Chief Sormaz notified the Board, that the Police Department and VIPS also received a thank-you letter from the Munster Police Department for their assistance with the funeral procession of fallen officer Ryan Perez, who passed as a result of an off-duty traffic accident.

THEREUPON, Old Business

ITEM A. PD – Conditional offer – Joshua Lawson

Chief Sormaz requested the Board rescind the conditional offer of employment to Joshua Lawson. Motion made by Mr. Volkmann, seconded by Mr. Kouros. The Board voted as follows:

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

Motion carries (4 – 0).

ITEM B. PD – New Hire Process Update

Deputy Chief McNamara advised the Board the physical agility test had been completed on March 22, 2025. The written exam was also completed the week of March 31, 2025, to April 2, 2025, and the department was waiting on the results from Stanard and Associates. He went on to add that once the results were received, oral interviews would be scheduled based upon the availability of the Board.

ITEM C. FD - NONE

THEREUPON, New Business

ITEM A. FD – NONE

ITEM B. PD – Conditional Offer – Nick Flahive

Chief Sormaz requested the Board extend the conditional offer of employment to Nick Flahive whom had completed all the necessary requirements for the Emergency Hire Process. Motion made by Mr. Eenigenburg, seconded by Mr. Volkmann. Chairman Graf advised the Board he had sat in on the impressive interview and feels Officer Flahive will be a great fit for the Town of Schererville. The Board voted as follows:

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

Motion carries (4 – 0).

THEREUPON, Reports

ITEM A. Police Chief

Chief Sormaz thanked the Chairman and the rest of the Board for attending the last-minute interviews and looking over the applications.

For the month of February, 2025, the Patrol Division responded to 1,264 incidents and took 75 accident reports. There were 122 total arrests. The Patrol Division filed 223 charges of which 68 were Class A Misdemeanors, 42 were Class B Misdemeanors, 70 were Class C Misdemeanors, 42 were Level 6 Felonies, and 5 were Level 5 Felonies. The Patrol Division served 58 total warrants. They performed 543 traffic stops resulting in 349 citations issued of which 102 were local ordinances and 247 were state infractions. 350 warnings were also issued. The Patrol Division performed 105 vehicle searches, of which 20 were K9 vehicle searches. There were 116 Proactive Patrols.

For the month of February, 2025, the Criminal Investigations Division (CID) filed 74 criminal charges which were the result of 23 cases. Of these charges, 33 were felony, 39 were misdemeanor, and 2 were Federal. 67 were filed in Lake County Court, 2 were filed in Lake County Juvenile Court, and 2 were filed in Federal Court. The CID investigated 39 incidents for the month of January.

For the month of March, 2025, Schererville Police Officers attended 143 hours of training.

For the month of March, 2025, the Animal Control Division had 34 calls for service, 2 bite reports and took in 3 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 February, 2025, the Schererville Fire Department performed 24 inspections, responded to 370 incidents of which 298 were EMS related, 27 were Fire related, 38 were

Alarms/Investigations, and 07 were Fire Prevention, Inspection and/or training. They also attended 828.8 hours of training.

ITEM C. Attorney – Merit Board

Attorney Bartholomew updated the Board on the status of the Fire Department Merit Board. He stated the Merit Board was still in the process of discussing and formulating rules for hiring and firing. He believes the process should be completed within a month and a half.

THEREUPON, Board Members George Kouros

Mr. Kouros thanked the Recording Secretary for the work she does for the Board of Safety.

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. Kouros. The Board voted as follows:

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

Motion carries (4 – 0). The meeting was adjourned at 5:36 pm.

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