

TOWN OF SCHERERVILLE
BOARD OF SAFETY MEETING

SCHERERVILLE, INDIANA
June 5, 2025

The Board of Safety Meeting was called to order by Chairman Eric Graf at 5:30 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, 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, and Director of Operations Andrew Hansen. Absent: George Kouros.

THEREUPON, Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Jaroszewski made a motion to approve the minutes of the April 3, 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"
- David Eenigenburg: "Yes"
- David Jaroszewski: "Yes"
- Robert Volkmann: "Yes"

Motion carries (4 – 0).

THEREUPON, Correspondence

ITEM A. FD – Thank-you letter from St. Michael's School

Chief Patterson advised the Board he had received a thank-you letter from St. Michael's School. The school held a fundraiser/competition in which the winner received a day with the Fire Department which consisted of a ride in a fire truck ending with lunch at Rosati's Pizza.

ITEM B. FD – Thank-you letter from the Family of Brian Bradshaw

Chief Patterson made the Board aware he had received a thank-you letter from the family of Brian Bradshaw whom was a close friend of the Fire Department, one they considered part of the family. Mr. Brian Bradshaw unexpectedly passed away on April 16, 2025, and the Fire Department helped with funeral and other necessary arrangements to assist the family.

ITEM C. PD – Note from Nancy Clause

Chief Sormaz notified the Board, that he had received a note from Nancy Clause recognizing Officer Matthew Voss as a good neighbor, whom always helps her when she asks for assistance.

THEREUPON, Old Business

ITEM A. PD – Emergency Hire Process

Chief Sormaz reminded the Board several months ago they voted to initiate an Emergency Hire Process. He went on to add that the Department was now at authorized strength. He requested the Board close the Emergency Hire Process. Motion made by Mr. Volkmann, seconded by Mr. Jaroszewski. The Board voted as follows:

- Eric Graf: "Yes"
- David Eenigenburg: "Yes"
- David Jaroszewski: "Yes"
- Robert Volkmann: "I"

Motion carries (4 – 0).

ITEM B. FD – NONE

THEREUPON, New Business

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

Chief Patterson requested approval from the Board to hire three part-time employees:

- Joseph Anderson Firefighter/EMT
- Zachary Writt Firefighter/EMT
- Noah Villarreal Firefighter/EMT

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

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

Motion carries (4 – 0).

ITEM B. PD – New Hire Process

Deputy Chief McNamara thanked the Board for their assistance with the New Hire Process. He requested approval from the Board to certify the 2025 Eligibility Roster, which consist of eleven names. Motion made by Mr. Volkmann, seconded by Mr. Jaroszewski. Chairman Graf advised those present that he and Mr. Eenigenburg both sat in the process and stated there were impressive candidates on the list and he looks forward to the time when some will be hired. The Board voted as follows:

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

Motion carries (4 – 0).

ITEM C. PD – Time Promotion Officer Bandstra

Chief Sormaz informed the Board that Officer Bandstra has completed all necessary requirements as a 3rd Class Patrolman. Chief Sormaz recommends the Board advance Officer Bandstra to 2nd Class Patrolman, effective June 23, 2025. Written communication from both his immediate Supervisor and the Patrol Commander, both of whom approve his promotion to 2nd Class were included in the packet. Motion made by Mr. Eenigenburg, seconded by Mr. Jaroszewski. The Board voted as follows:

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

Motion carries (4 – 0).

ITEM D. PD – Retirement Letter Cpl. Timothy Mele

Chief Sormaz notified the Board he had received the retirement letter from Cpl. Tim Mele, currently a Supervisor in the Patrol Division. His last date will be March, 2026.

ITEM E.

PD – Use of Force Policy Update

Chief Sormaz made the Board aware that the Department reviews its Use of Force Policy on a regular basis. He went on to add that the Department is moving forward with a new equipment purchase of less than lethal weapons and wanted the terms used in the policy refined. Chief Sormaz stated the Board of Safety Attorney, Christian Bartholomew, reviewed the finalized policy. He recommends the Board approve the policy as it was submitted. Motion made by Mr. Jaroszewski, seconded by Mr. Eenigenburg. The Board voted as follows:

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

Motion carries (4 – 0).

THEREUPON, Reports

ITEM A. Police Chief

Chief Sormaz advised the Board, as previously discussed, the study session would begin at 5 p.m., and the regular meeting time would be moved to 5:10 p.m. He recommended the Board accept the new times. Chief Sormaz stated the rest of the reports were in the packet.

For the months of March and April, 2025, the Patrol Division Reports were unavailable.

For the month of March, 2025, the Criminal Investigations Division (CID) filed 38 criminal charges which were the result of 16 cases. Of these charges, 20 were felony and 18 were misdemeanor. 28 were filed in Lake County Court, 7 were filed in Schererville Town Court, and 3 were filed in Lake County Juvenile Court. The CID are investigating 59 incidents for the month of March.

For the month of April, 2025, the Criminal Investigations Division (CID) filed 54 criminal charges which were the result of 20 cases. Of these charges, 27 were felony, 24 were misdemeanor, and 3 were Federal. 42 were filed in Lake County Court, 4 were filed in Schererville Town Court, 5 were filed in Lake County Juvenile Court, and 3 were filed in Federal Court. The CID are investigating 91 incidents for the month of April.

For the month of April, 2025, Schererville Police Officers attended 678.5 hours of training.

For the month of May, 2025, Schererville Police Officers attended 936.5 hours of training.

For the months of April and May, 2025, the Animal Control Division had 92 calls for service, 3 bite reports and took in 5 animals.

ITEM B. Fire Chief

Fire Chief Patterson informed the Board he had no additional reports other than what was in the packet. Chief Patterson informed the Board the Fire Department had their swearing in this morning of the two new full-time Firefighters that they, the Board, assisted in hiring. He thanked Mr. Jaroszewski for attending the swearing in.

For the month of April, 2025, the Schererville Fire Department performed 61 inspections, responded to 335 incidents of which 275 were EMS related, 28 were Fire related, 23 were Alarms/Investigations, and 09 were Fire Prevention, Inspection and/or training. They also attended 950.2 hours of training.

For the month of May, 2025, the Schererville Fire Department performed 13 inspections, responded to 370 incidents of which 291 were EMS related, 45 were Fire related, 27 were Alarms/Investigations, and 07 were Fire Prevention, Inspection and/or training. They also attended 503.05 hours of training.

ITEM C. Attorney – NONE

THEREUPON, Board Members David Jaroszewski

Mr. Jaroszewski thanked Chief Sormaz and his staff for another great fundraiser with Cop on a Rooftop.

THEREUPON, Business from the Floor Georgianne Glavas

Georgianne Glavas of 1727 Chelsea Street, on behalf of Logan’s Love, had two items she wished to discuss. She stated they had received a donation from a local business for a transmitter and needed to know when and where to drop the check off. Chief Patterson advised Ms. Glavas she could drop the donation off at the fire station at her convenience. Ms. Glavas stated Logan’s Love Golf Outing would be held on Friday, June 13, 2025, at Wicker Park, in Highland, Indiana, if anyone would like to attend. Chief Sormaz requested a flyer to be posted at the Police Department.

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 (4 – 0). The meeting was adjourned at 5:42 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> |