

TOWN OF SCHERERVILLE  
REGULAR TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

SCHERERVILLE, INDIANA  
AUGUST 13, 2025

The Regular Town Council Meeting of the Town of Schererville, IN was called to order by President Rob Guetzloff at 6:40 p.m. in the Schererville Town Hall, 10 E. Joliet Street Schererville, IN.

Attendance was taken with the following Council Members present: Caleb S. Johnson, Kevin Connelly, Robin Arvanitis, Thomas Schmitt and Rob Guetzloff. Staff members present: Attorney David Austgen, Fire Chief Robert Patterson, Police Chief Pete Sormaz, Park Superintendent John Novacich, IT AJ Garcia, Town Engineer Neil Simstad, Director of Public Works Chad Nondorf, Director of Operations Andy Hansen, Town Manager Jim Gorman and Recording Secretary Robin Thiel.

THEREUPON, Approval of the minutes. Mr. Johnson made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 9, 2025 Public Meeting, seconded by Mr. Connelly. All in favor (5-0).

THEREUPON, Claims

- A. APV #120901 - APV #121413 on the General Docket, Totaling \$7,003,133.47
- B. APV #120908 - APV #121413 on the MVH Docket, Totaling \$159,247.37
- C. APV #120920 - APV #121346 on the Payroll Docket, Totaling \$1,925,456.73
- D. Various Funds, First National Bank of Omaha, Credit Card Charges, \$10,665.54
- E. Various Funds, Austgen Kuiper Jasaitis, July Legal, \$10,513.36
- F. Ambulance Fund, Austgen Kuiper Jasaitis, EMS Collection, \$150.00
- G. Ambulance Fund, Peoples Bank, Principal & Interest Due: 2020 Ambulance, \$33,386.89
- H. Various Funds, Hasse Construction Co., Invoice #13861, \$612,750.00
- I. Cable TV Fund, Advanced Engineering Services, Invoice #2510620731, \$2,252.00
- J. Various Funds, Hasse Construction Company, Inc., Pmt. #11-Biosolids Storage Project, \$612,750.00
- K. General Fund - Police, G.I.E., Invoice #2025070008, \$1,608.75
- L. Solid Waste Fund, Briar Ridge Property Owner's Association, Recycling Distribution Share, \$10,377.36
- M. Solid Waste Fund, Springvale Home Owner's Association, Recycling Distribution Share, \$4,008.96
- N. Promo Fund, Mad Bomber Fireworks, Fireworks, \$32,000.00
- O. Solid Waste Management Fund, Stumpbusters, Stump Removal, \$5,700.00
- P. Cumulative Capital Development Fund, BPS, Spendbridge Fee, \$6,000.00
- Q. Motor Vehicle Highway Fund, Marc Corrado, CDL Reimbursement, \$53.89
- R. Various Funds, Menards, Supplies, \$3,649.33
- S. Various Funds, Auto-Wares, Supplies, \$17,408.80
- T. Various Funds, Napa, Parts, \$250.49
- U. General Fund - Planning & Building, Mike Szany, Mileage Reimbursement, \$255.50
- V. Donation Fund, Crown Rentals, National Night Out Dunk Tank, \$224.78
- W. Deposit N/R Escrow Fund, Various Community Center Renters, Security Deposit Refunds, \$1,784.15

Mr. Connelly made a motion to accept the claims as presented, seconded by Mr. Schmitt. All in favor (5-0).

THEREUPON, Correspondence                      NONE

THEREUPON, Reports

Fire Chief Patterson reported that for the month of July 2025 the Fire Department responded to 277 EMS related calls and 73 Fire related calls for a total of 350 calls.

Police Chief Sormaz stated he would like to thank all of our residents and vendors that came out to their annual National Night Out on August 5, 2025 in Redar Park. He stated that they had over 36 vendors there and hundreds of residents that came out.

Mr. Novacich stated that we have a new event this weekend, Pennsy, Pints and Performers that will be held right here on Joliet Street. It is going to be Friday, August 15<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 pm to 11:30 pm and Saturday from 2:00 pm to 11:30 pm.

He stated that they have 18 food vendors, six bands and Schererville Lounge and Greg's Place are going to provide liquid refreshments. Mr. Novacich stated that the Schererville Chamber of Commerce is going to do their Corn Roast at this event on Saturday. There will be a bike ride at 1:00pm on Saturday, a five mile ride from Redar Park to Plum Creek and back.

Mr. Nondorf reported on the Burr Street reconstruction project. He stated that the majority of the old roadway has been milled out. The south end of the project from 75<sup>th</sup> Ave., to near the Rolling Hills Subdivision has had the existing stone base removed and replaced with new stone base. The watermain installation work will resume tomorrow on the north end near 73<sup>rd</sup> Ave. Mr. Nondorf also reported that at the Rolling Hills Park, Public Works excavated for new sidewalk sections inside the park for the approach to the shelter near the playground and trail. Mr. Nondorf reported that the new water service line was installed for an ADA water fountain last week. Additional trail work is forthcoming. He stated they will be removing the existing trail and replacing it with an 8 foot wide trail. He stated that Public Works will be doing all of the removal, widening and Milestone Contractors will be performing the asphalt service on the trail. Mr. Nondorf stated that the Street Department crews have completed the 2025 in-house concrete list with 289 sections of sidewalk replaced and 730' of curb.

Mr. Guetzloff stated that Attorney John Bushemi was Schererville's appointment to the Southshore Convention and Visitors Authority, but he sent a resignation letter only because he has moved to Valparaiso. Mr. Guetzloff stated that his appointment for this position will be Attorney James Wieser.

Mr. Johnson made a motion to remove from the Agenda, Item E, which was the appointment to the Southshore Convention and Visitors Authority, seconded by Mr. Connelly. All in favor (5-0).

#### THEREUPON, Public Comments Regarding Agenda Items

Suzanne Gonzalez, 1445 Autumn Drive, stated that she is here in support of something that you are going to hear about later, but she wanted to speak about it now. She stated that our Veterans deserve a museum. If you were ever a student of Mr. Clark, you know the amount of war artifacts, flags, medals and other personal information from local soldiers that he has collected. She stated that her stepfather, David Davis and all soldiers deserve their story to be told. She stated that Mr. Clark's items all need to be on display so we never forget what our soldiers have done for us. She then read some lyrics from singer Toby Keith. She stated that all of the men and women should be honored, especially those who gave the ultimate sacrifice. She asked the Council to support a Veterans Museum at the Illiana Speedway.

Mr. Pat O'Donnell, resident of Hammond, IN stated he is here to ask the Council to give them a place to move a museum because there are so many veterans' organizations in Lake County and we have picked this city to have they Veterans Museum because this is the Crossroads of the Nation, Schererville, Indiana. He stated that they are naming the Veterans Museum the "Crossroad Veterans Museum" which is hopefully going to be located right here on US 30. He advised the Council that if they would give them the land and this opportunity, they will not let the Council down.

Barb Tusley, 13700 Lantern Drive, St. John, IN stated that she has a deep love and devotion for the Town of Schererville. She stated her father died when she was 12 years old from war injuries suffered in World War II. She stated

that being a part of the Tri-town Safety Village where the current museum is located she has seen a lot of magnificent things that Mr. Clark has done. She stated that they have containers full of items that they have no room to display.

Andrew Dziegłowicz, 9835 West Oakridge Drive, St. John, Indiana, stated that he has been a SAL member for 42 years. He helped build Post 369 in St. John. He stated that the Veteran Museum would be advantageous to the Community. He stated that if it is anything like the Shrine of Christ Passion in St. John, it is beautiful.

Marty Dziegłowicz, 9835 West Oakridge Drive, St. John, Indiana, stated that he has known Tom Clark for several years. He stated that while he was State commander and during the time, he was post commander, Mr. Clark was willing to come to East Chicago and bring his memorabilia, especially for our Americanism days. He stated that he thinks Mr. Clark would be a great person to maintain the Museum at the new location, Illiana Speedway. Mr. Dziegłowicz stated that there is no doubt in his mind that this would put Schererville on the map.

Tony Gutierrez, stated that thirty years ago he was here and asked the Town Council, when Tom Shanley and Richard Krame were here to build a memorial across the street. He stated that the Council gave them permission to do it. It is in front of the Police Department. He stated that what they would like now is to ask again for more property or a parcel possibly an acre or two. Mr. Gutierrez stated they have a problem with Mr. Clark's museum at the Safety Village because it is too small, he has so much material that he needs to expand.

David Sheerman, 1528 Tate Drive in Schererville. He stated that he has only been here a few years, he came from New England and never did he hear someone say "Thanks for your service". He stated he moved here and he hears it everywhere he goes. He stated that there is no other way to help support all of our veterans than to help build this new facility for Tom Clark.

Mr. Joe Gomeztagle, 9476 West Oakridge Drive, St. John, Indiana stated that he is here in support of the National Veterans Museum. He stated that we often talk about Northwest Indiana or Schererville as being the Crossroads of the Nation. He stated having this museum would add so much value to everyone in the community that will make you proud.

Mr. Ira Zimmer, 1720 South Park Avenue, Schererville, a 68 year resident of the Town. He stated that his father was a Clerk-Treasurer for Schererville so he has been involved a little bit in politics. He stated that he had two brothers in the Vietnam era, one served in Vietnam during the TED offensive. The other one was a Marine Corp F4 driver instructor. He stated he would like to thank everyone here tonight for their service. Mr. Zimmer stated that he has known Tom Clark for many years, he is a great gentleman. He stated that if you ever speak to any of his students or even his colleagues, he has done a lot for the Veterans. He did a lot for Lake Central and he would do a great job with this museum.

Mr. Jim Gravogo, 1438 Somerset, Munster, Indiana and Kathleen Camarina spoke about the upcoming DAV walk and thanked the Council for their support on that. They stated that this country needs this museum; northwest Indiana needs this museum to continue our patriotism. Kathleen stated that our Country is divided, and we need to support our Veterans, law enforcement and all of our first responders. She asked the Council to please vote yes for this museum.

THEREUPON, Presentation

Bill Jarvis and Tom Clark

Mr. Jarvis and Mr. Clark gave a presentation to the Council and thanked them for listening to their idea of having a Veterans Museum located in Schererville, Indiana. Mr. Jarvis stated he has lived here since 1982. He thanked all the veterans in the audience for their support and time that they've given and the service they have given. Mr. Jarvis stated he is requesting the permission of the Town Council to build the National Crossroads Museum. He stated that he will be the Executive Director of that Museum and Tom Clark will be the curator. He stated that they have outgrown the current location at the Safety Village. He stated that what they are proposing will be an asset to the Community and will draw interest from all over the nation to visit Schererville, Indiana.

Mr. Tom Clark, 2824 Lindy Circle, Dyer, IN stated he was a teacher at Lake Central for 40 years. But first, he would like to thank the Town Council for considering their proposal for a Veterans Museum at Illiana Speedway. He stated a little bit about himself is he was a teacher at Lake Central for 40 years. In 1983, the Marines were bombed at Beirut, Lebanon, two individuals from Northwest Indiana lost their lives. He stated that he had his students writing letters to the survivors and the letters coming back were incredible. Mr. Clark stated that one lady approached him, and asked "would you like to talk to Danny Estie's grandmother?" Danny Estes was from Black Oak and he had lost his life in Beirut. He stated that he met with Danny's grandmother and talked about the things she gave him and what he did with them. He stated that he met with another family from Chesterton who also lost a family member in Beirut, Tom Thorstad. Mr. Clark went into length and told his story of what he and his students did with all of those items and then how they found families who had lost members in the service. Mr. Clark stated that he served one year in Afghanistan. He stated that he would like to thank the Town Council for their time and all of these wonderful veterans that have shown up here tonight, and the people of Schererville.

Mr. Connelly asked Mr. Clark how much acreage they are looking for. He stated that they need about two to three acres. He stated they just need the acreage and they will do all of the rest.

Mr. Jarvis stated that all they are looking for from Schererville is the land, they will get the building built. He stated that the building is going to be built NOT with taxpayer's dollars, but taxpayer's donations and the community's donations. Mr. Jarvis stated that the Veterans Museum, the Fire Museum and the NIPSCO Museum were all built by the trades free of charge at the Safety Village.

Mr. Johnson stated that he feels that as a Council we might want to discuss what was asked of us, what was presented to us and what we think about this presentation and things. He stated that he feels like they kind of left it hanging there. They all came, they talked and he thinks they are looking for the Council's response or at least a comment. Mr. Johnson stated that he loves it, he thinks it is a great idea. He stated that if they (Veterans) are able to find the funding to build this building and we have got the property.

Mr. Connelly stated that from his perspective, he is in support one way or the other, we need to find a way to make this happen. He stated he feels there is plenty of room at Illiana and he is also in favor.

Mr. Guetzloff stated that he doesn't think that there's one Council Member that is opposed to giving the Veterans property. He stated the Veterans have done a lot for this Country to keep us safe and so that we can be a free Country.

Mr. Schmitt stated that they are going to have several conversations and another meeting real soon on the property. He stated that he thinks at this time is when the Council will show support to incorporate some land for that purpose. Mr. Schmitt stated just like the other Council Members stated, they naturally would be in support of this.

Mrs. Arvanitis stated that she agrees as well. She thinks it would be a fantastic addition. She stated that the Veterans Museum has outgrown the Safety Village and would love for it to stay in Schererville. She thinks Illiana would be a fantastic location for it.

Mr. Guetzloff stated that he doesn't think there will be a vote tonight to say that they are going to do it, but it is on videotape that's for sure. Mr. Guetzloff stated that it is a certain thing, they just need to have a little more discussion about where we want to put it.

THEREUPON, Old Business        NONE

THEREUPON, New Business

ITEM A. PUBLIC HEARING

Ord. #2028, An Ordinance Amending the Wholesale Water Tracker Component of the Rates and Charges Collected by the Town of Schererville Municipal Water Utility, and all Matters Related Thereto

OPEN TO THE FLOOR FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

NO COMMENTS FROM THE FLOOR

CLOSED TO THE FLOOR FOR PUBLIC COMMENT

Attorney Austgen stated that the record should reflect timely publication of one newspaper publication. There was a shortage by one day of the second publication, the Public Hearing notice in the Times newspaper was nine days, not ten. He stated everything else went out on time, came back and was published on time. Attorney Austgen stated that his recommendation is that the irregularity of nine days versus ten days in one of the two newspapers be waived.

Mr. Schmitt made a motion approving Attorney Austgen's recommendation, seconded by Mr. Connelly. All in favor (5-0).

Mr. Connelly made a motion to consider on 1<sup>st</sup> reading Ord. #2028, seconded by Mrs. Arvanitis. All in favor (5-0).

Mr. Connelly made a motion to adopt Ord. #2028, seconded by Mrs. Arvanitis. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM B. Res. #2025-8, A Resolution to Transfer Funds within a Category of Appropriations

Mr. Gorman stated that these Transfer of Funds were requests from department heads. These are transfers within their departments into a different line item.

Mr. Johnson made a motion to approve Resolution #2025-8, seconded by Mr. Connelly. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM C. Res. #2025-9, A Resolution of the Town of Schererville Lake County, Indiana, Opposing the Proposed Closure Of the Schererville BMV Branch

Mr. Gorman stated that this is a Resolution that we came up with because they have heard from residents that are not happy with our BMV closing. He stated that there is a meeting tomorrow night in the Town Hall meeting room. He stated it's a Public Hearing and that is the topic of discussion.

Mr. Connelly stated that he reached out to the Secretary of Transportation who oversees the BMV and voiced our concern. Mr. Connelly stated he was told that the decision wasn't final. He stated good, and he hopes that they re-evaluate.

Mr. Schmitt made a motion to approve Resolution #2025-9, which opposes the closing of the BMV, seconded by Mr. Connelly. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM D. Consider Acceptance of Proposal for Engineering Services for the Schererville Central Fire Station, Phase 2 from NIES Engineering (Not to exceed amount - \$96,350.00)

Mr. Simstad stated that this is a continuation of the Phase I work which involved the platting of the site and initial site investigation, wetland coordination with soil solutions. He stated they provided the information to CSK Architects and their initial site survey of the property. Mr. Simstad stated that this work is a continuation of that and the site layout of all utilities, sanitary, sewer, storm and water. He stated that they will be coordinating with the Architect for the specific building layout in terms of elevation and orientation. He stated that after all of the design engineering is complete they will secure permits for the IDEM DNR and all Federal, State and regulatory agencies. They will then prepare bid packages to get the project out to bid when the Council determines that to be financially feasible and then prepare a bid tabulation and report.

Mr. Schmitt made a motion to accept the proposal for Engineering Services for the Schererville Central Fire Station, seconded by Mr. Connelly.

Mr. Johnson stated that with their uncertainty financially going forward here, he thinks that this is imprudent. Mr. Johnson stated he thinks \$96,000.00 to do engineering for something that we don't know if we can afford to build, it just doesn't make sense. Mr. Johnson stated that he doesn't know when we're going to be able to build or need to build a fire station, but it seems like it isn't right now because of all these financial uncertainties that we have. He stated that it is improper for us as a Town Council to spend this money.

Motion carries (4-1). Mr. Johnson voting no.

ITEM D. Discussed earlier

ITEM E. Consider Approval of Agreement between Lake County Parks and Recreation and the Town of Schererville (Southeast corner of Austin and Seberger)

Mr. Gorman stated that the Council decided back in February of this year that we were going to help with the purchase of property at the corner of Seberger and Austin Ave. He stated its Lake County Parks and we had an agreement to participate in that purchase which was an amount of \$50,000.00. Mr. Gorman stated that they were advised by our Attorney that we should have an agreement on file with the County. He stated that this is that agreement.

Mr. Schmitt made a motion to approve the Agreement, seconded by Mrs. Arvanitis. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM F. Consider Acceptance of Donations \$6,245.41

Mr. Gorman read the donations for July 2025 into the record.

Mr. Johnson made a made a motion to accept the donations as read, seconded by Mr. Connelly. All in favor (5-0).

THEREUPON, Business from the floor NONE

Meeting adjourned.

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ROB GUETZLOFF  
TOWN COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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MICHAEL A TROXELL, IAMCA, CMC, ACPFIM, CPFA, CMO  
TOWN CLERK-TREASURER

A TRUE COPY