

TOWN OF SCHERERVILLE

SCHERERVILLE, INDIANA

FIRE MERIT BOARD MEETING

September 4, 2025

The Fire Department Merit Board Regular Meeting was called to order by President Roger Florkiewicz at 6:07 p.m., in the Schererville Town Hall Meeting Room, 10 E. Joliet Street, Schererville, IN.

Attendance was taken with the following Board Members present: President Roger Florkiewicz, Vice President Tim Arvanitis, Secretary Paul Petrie, David Turoci, and Tom Fulk. Staff members present: Fire Chief Robert Patterson, Deputy Fire Chief David Meyer, and Acting Recording Secretary Jon Gettemans. Also present: Attorney Christian Bartholomew.

THEREUPON, Approval of the Minutes

Mr. David Turoci made a motion to approve the minutes of the August 7, 2025 Regular Meeting, seconded by Mr. Tom Fulk. Motion Carries (5 – 0).

THEREUPON, Correspondence

ITEM A. Open House

Chief Patterson advised the Board that the Schererville Fire Department's open house will be on October 4, 2025 from the hours of 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

ITEM B. Resignation

Attorney Bartholomew reported that a correspondence had been received from a firefighter regarding his resignation and asked Chief Patterson if he wished to address it. Chief Patterson then read a letter dated September 2nd, 2025 formally resigning, effective September 3rd, 2025, submitted by Firefighter/EMT Nick Minkema. After questioning, President Roger Florkiewicz was advised that this resignation creates a posting for the open position. Chief Patterson stated that the Department needs to move forward with the current hiring list to determine candidate interest for filling the vacancy.

THEREUPON, Old Business

ITEM A. FD – Continued Review of Merit Board Rules

Attorney Bartholomew stated that he had discussions with Attorney Austgen in regards to Attorney Austgen's review of the Merit Board rules a few weeks ago and currently has no new updates. Attorney Bartholomew explained that he plans to produce a draft of revisions for the Board's review, which may or may not be considered depending on Attorney Austgen's commentary and additional issues that have arisen over the last few months. Attorney Bartholomew anticipates providing the draft to the Board by next month, allow a couple of months for review. With that given, if the Board chooses to implement the changes, they could potentially take effect in January 2026. Attorney Bartholomew further noted that he would collaborate with Attorney Austgen in response to President Florkiewicz's comments regarding the Board's rules.

THEREUPON, New Business

ITEM A. FD -- Setting Hearing Dates for Personnel Actions

Schererville Firefighters Professional Union Local 4279 President Jacob Thornton appeared before the Merit Board on behalf of Firefighter Timothy Jenkins and requested a 90-day continuance in order to conduct appropriate investigations and fact-finding. He further stated that this additional time would also allow for the retention of legal counsel, if deemed necessary, to ensure a fair and thorough process for Firefighter Jenkins.

Mr. David Turoci made the motion to extend the date no later than November 20 for meeting and hearing, seconded by Mr. Tom Fulk. Motion carries (5-0).

Attorney Bartholomew advised the Board that they will need to determine a hearing date prior to the date on which the matter is voted on. He further explained that Mr. Jenkins will be provided with 14 days' notice before the hearing and that such notice will be sent by him, formally. President Florkiewicz requested that if Mr. Jenkins is prepared to discuss possible dates at either of the next two scheduled Board meetings, he inform the Board accordingly, so that the process does not necessarily require the full 90 days that were extended. Schererville Firefighters Union 4279 President Jacob Thornton acknowledged that decision and assured the Board that he will keep them informed every step of the way.

THEREUPON, Reports

ITEM A. Fire Department – NONE

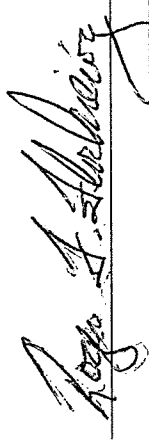
THEREUPON, Board Members

Mr. Tom Fulk stated that he recently had a family member staying with him following a medical procedure who experienced an emergency at his home. He reported that he called Schererville Fire Department and that the responding crew handled the situation professionally and quickly. He expressed his appreciation for their service.

THEREUPON, Business from the Floor NONE

THEREUPON, Adjournment

There being no further business, Secretary Paul Petrie made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Vice President Tim Arvanitis. Motion carries (5 – 0). The meeting was adjourned at 6:19 p.m.



ROGER
SCHERERVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT
MERIT BOARD PRESIDENT
A TRUE COPY



TIM ARVANITIS
SCHERERVILLE FIRE DEPARTMENT
MERIT BOARD VICE PRESIDENT
A TRUE COPY