

TOWN OF SCHERERVILLE

SCHERERVILLE, INDIANA

BOARD OF SAFETY MEETING

March 6, 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, George Kouros, David Eenigenburg, David Jaroszewski, 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.

THEREUPON, Approval of the Minutes

Mr. Volkmann made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 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: "I"
- George Kouros: "I"
- David Eenigenburg: "I"
- David Jaroszewski: "I"
- Robert Volkmann: "I"

Motion carries (5 – 0).

Mr. Jaroszewski made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 20, 2025, Special Meeting for the Police Department, seconded by Mr. Eenigenburg. The Board voted as follows:

- Eric Graf: "I"
- George Kouros: "I"
- David Eenigenburg: "I"
- David Jaroszewski: "I"
- Robert Volkmann: "I"

Motion carries (5 – 0).

THEREUPON, Correspondence

ITEM A. FD – NONE

ITEM B. PD – Thank-you letter from Highland Police Department

Chief Sormaz informed the Board he received a thank-you note from the Highland Police Department thanking Officers Paprocki and Hickok for responding to a shots fired call in the 9600 block of Forrest Drive.

THEREUPON, Old Business

ITEM A. FD – NONE

ITEM B. PD – NONE

THEREUPON, New Business

ITEM A. FD – NONE

ITEM B. PD – Investigative Division Award

Detective Commander Kevin Wagner recognized Detective Hector Mendez as the Schererville Police Department's 2024, Investigator of the year.

ITEM C. PD – Patrol Division Award

Patrol Commander Michael Bork recognized Officer Ryan Eger as the Schererville Police Department's 2024, Officer of the Year.

ITEM D. PD – Life Saving Award

Corporal Josette Quiroga, on behalf of the Schererville Police Department, honored Officer Keith Hickok with the Life Saving Award for medical aid rendered on November 11, 2024.

ITEM E. PD – Civilian Award

Dispatch and Records Supervisor Kelly Wynkoop recognized Dispatcher Jacob Cueller as the Schererville Police Department's 2024, Civilian of the Year.

ITEM F. PD – K9 Retirements

K9 Officer Jacob Bermingham recognized the retirement of K9 Hawk and K9 Juno and shared thoughts of his years working with both K9's and their handlers.

ITEM G. PD – VIPS Recognition for Service

Corporal Ryan Staley recognized the Volunteers in Police Service (VIPS) for their hard work and dedication to the Schererville Police Department.

ITEM H. PD – Swearing Ceremony

Officer Devin Watkins, Badge #: 234, was sworn in by Clerk Treasurer Michael Troxell.

ITEM I. PD – Conditional Offer

Chief Sormaz requested the Board extend the conditional offer of employment to Stephen Hawkins and Joshua Lawson, both of whom are certified law officers and have completed all the necessary requirements for the Emergency Hire Process. Motion made by Mr. Volkmann, seconded by Mr. Eenigenburg. The Board voted as follows:

- Eric Graf: "I"
- George Kouros: "I"
- David Eenigenburg: "I"
- David Jaroszewski: "I"
- Robert Volkmann: "I"

Motion carries (5 – 0).

THEREUPON, Reports

ITEM A. Police Chief

Chief Sormaz informed the Board the Police Department would be holding their Coffee with a Cop on Thursday, March 13, 2025, from 9am to 11am at the McDonald's in Schererville, 1855 US Hwy 41, and welcomed all to attend.

For the year 2024, the Patrol Division responded to 18,863 incidents and took 1,090 accident reports. There were 1,743 total arrests. The Patrol Division filed 2,678 charges of which 924 were Class A Misdemeanors, 505 were Class B Misdemeanors, 783 were Class C Misdemeanors, 11 Level 5 Felonies, and 449 Level 6 Felonies, and 6 Level 4 Felonies. The Patrol Division served 1,001 total warrants. They performed 6,694 traffic stops resulting in 4,485 citations issued of which 1,271 were local ordinances and 4,944 were state infractions. 4,944 warnings were also issued. The Patrol Division performed 1,536 vehicle searches, of which 402 were K9 vehicle searches. There were 2,158 Proactive Patrols.

For the month of January, 2025, the Patrol Division responded to 1,410 incidents and took 100 accident reports. There were 86 total arrests. The Patrol Division filed 186 charges of which 59 were Class A Misdemeanors, 34 were Class B Misdemeanors, 65 were Class C Misdemeanors, and 28 were Level 6 Felonies. The Patrol Division served 86 total warrants. They performed 644 traffic stops resulting in 391 citations issued of which 105 were local ordinances and 286 were state infractions. 475 warnings were also issued. The Patrol Division performed 115 vehicle searches, of which 18 were K9 vehicle searches. There were 135 Proactive Patrols.

For the month of January, 2025, the Criminal Investigations Division (CID) filed 53 criminal charges which were the result of 17 cases. Of these charges, 38 were felony, 14 were misdemeanor, and 1 was Federal. 49 were filed in Lake County Court, 3 were filed in Lake County Juvenile Court, and 1 was filed in Federal Court. The CID investigated 41 incidents for the month of January.

For the month of February, 2025, Schererville Police Officers attended 438.5 hours of training.

For the month of February, 2025, the Animal Control Division had 31 calls for service, 0 bite reports and took in 1 animal.

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 31 inspections, responded to 311 incidents of which 259 were EMS related, 18 were Fire related, 24 were Alarms/Investigations, and 10 were Fire Prevention, Inspection and/or training. They also attended 786.3 hours of training.

ITEM C. Attorney – Merit Board

Attorney Bartholomew updated the Board on the status of the Fire Department Merit Board. Five candidates have been appointed to the Merit Board and all are qualified to serve in the position. The Merit Board will be meeting soon for organizational purposes.

THEREUPON, Board Members NONE

THEREUPON, Business from the Floor NONE

THEREUPON, Adjournment

There being no further business, Mr. Volkmann made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Mr. Jaroszewski. The Board voted as follows:

- Eric Graf: "I"
- George Kouros: "I"
- David Eenigenburg: "I"

- David Jaroszewski: “I”
- Robert Volkmann: “I”

Motion carries (5 – 0). The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm.

ERIC
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GRAF
BOARD OF
CHAIRMAN

GEORGE KOUROS

SCHERERVILLE BOARD OF

SAFETY VICE CHAIRMAN
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