

The Regular Town Council Meeting of the Town of Schererville, IN was called to order by President Robin Arvanitis at 6:45 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, Thomas Schmitt, Rob Guetzloff and Robin Arvanitis. Staff members present: Attorney David Austgen, Deputy Fire Chief Dave Meyer, Police Chief Pete Sormaz, IT AJ Garcia, 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. Schmitt made a motion to approve the minutes of the February 11, 2026 Public Meeting, seconded by Mr. Connelly. All in favor (5-0).

THEREUPON, Claims

- A. APV # 123862 - APV #124226 on the General Docket, Totaling \$1,869,373.46
- B. APV #123865 - APV #124222 on the MVH Docket, Totaling \$113,402.41
- C. APV #123905 - APV #124220 on the Payroll Docket, Totaling \$1,300,148.23
- D. Various Funds, First National Bank of Omaha, Credit Card Charges, \$17,732.64
- E. Various Funds, Rothschild Insurance, Invoice #65128, \$4,867.00
- F. Various Funds, Austgen Kuiper Jasaitis, February Legal, \$10,894.87
- G. Various Funds, Invoice Cloud, February Portal Fees, \$50.00
- H. Various Funds, Menards, Supplies, \$3,959.36
- I. Various Funds, Auto Wares, Parts, \$15,607.37
- J. Various Funds, Chicago Tribune, Ads, \$300.00

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

THEREUPON, Correspondence NONE

THEREUPON, Reports

Deputy Fire Chief Meyer stated that the Fire Department has been awarded a \$6,000.00 grant from the Enbridge Pipeline to help them support equipment upgrades to the Department. He stated that this grant comes at no cost to the Town or the Fire Department. He stated that the grant will be used to replace fire nozzles on the frontline engines. He stated that this grant also allows the Fire Department to upgrade essential equipment that is directly going to support their firefighters in the community.

Mr. Hansen stated that they started the remodeling at the Animal Control. He stated that Public Works is doing a vast majority of the work. He stated that that they have some of the plumbing done. Mr. Hansen stated that they are looking for any donations to help move that along.

THEREUPON, Public Comments Regarding Agenda Items NONE

THEREUPON, Presentation

St. John Township Trustee Cathy Lareau  
Senate Bill 270

Ms. Lareau stated she doesn't know if the Council is familiar with what's been going on this past legislative session, but there have been two bills regarding Townships, House Bill 1315 and Senate Bill 270. Ms. Lareau stated that it is her understanding that for the last twenty years, legislators have wanted Township government reform. This year in the session there were two bills, the first one, House Bill 1315 was basically a Township elimination bill. The goal was

to move Township government to the Towns or to the County. She stated that the bill stated that the Trustee, the Board and the County would need to decide by June 1<sup>st</sup> of this year where those services would be transferred to. Ms. Lareau stated that she and a member from the Indiana Township Association testified against this bill when it was in the committee, however it did pass the House, but died in the Senate, which was a great thing. Mr. Lareau stated that the second bill is Senate Bill 270, it's a township merger bill and this is a common sense good bill and it was voted on in favor by all of our legislators within Lake County. Ms. Lareau went into detail and explained Senate Bill 270 and stated that it passed in the House with a few minor amendments and it passed in the Senate and the Governor signed it on March 5, 2026.

THEREUPON, Old Business

ITEM A. Consider Acceptance of Norfolk Southern License Agreement for Proposed Relocation of an Existing Sewer (due to a Future Grade-Separation Bridge) Authorize the Director Operations to Sign the Agreement, and Authorize the Town Manager, Director Of Operations, Clerk-Treasurer and Town Attorney To Finalize Execution of Documents and Submit Payment for \$21,804.50, amount clarified since Approval at the November 12, 2025 meeting. (Kennedy Avenue Improvement Project) **(From the Utility Board Agenda)**

Mr. Schmitt made a motion to accept the Norfolk Southern License Agreement, seconded by Mr. Johnson. All in favor (5-0)

THEREUPON, New Business

ITEM A. Ord. No. 2022A, An Ordinance Amending a Designated Outdoor Refreshment Area (DORA) in the Downtown District in the Town of Schererville, Lake County, Indiana, Repealing All Other Ordinances and Town Code Sections, or Parts Thereof, in Conflict Herewith, and all Matters Related Thereto

Mr. Hansen stated that this amendment will allow the DORA to exist in the months of August and September and it will include Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. He stated that the street fest for this year will be on September 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. This will also allow the Parks Department a little more flexibility in scheduling their downtown events.

Mr. Connelly made a motion to consider on 1<sup>st</sup> reading, Ordinance #2022A, seconded by Mr. Johnson. All in favor (5-0).

Mr. Connelly made a motion to adopt Ordinance #2022A, seconded by Mr. Johnson. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM B. Award Asphalt (Materials and Service) Bid

Mr. Nondorf stated that this is the award for the asphalt paving and the poured-in-place concrete for the 2026 construction season. He stated that for the asphalt paving, three bids were received for our yearly asphalt services contract. Mr. Nondorf stated that after a thorough price review, it is his recommendation is hereby submitted to award the paving contract to Milestone Contractors. He stated that for the poured-in-placed concrete, three bids were received and after thorough review, his recommendation is hereby submitted to award the poured-in-place contract the H3 Concrete Company.

Mr. Johnson made a motion to award the Asphalt bid to Milestone Contractors, seconded by Mr. Connelly. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM C. Award Poured-In-Place Concrete Bid

Mr. Johnson made a motion to award the poured-in-place concrete to H3 Concrete Company, seconded by Mr. Schmitt. All in favor (5-0).

Mr. Nondorf stated that no companies bid the concrete disposal service for this year. He stated that the last two years we've used Dyer Construction Company. He stated they spent about \$3,000.00 in 2024 and about \$2,000.00 in 2025. Mr. Nondorf is asking the Council's approval to use Dyer Construction again this upcoming year.

Mr. Johnson made a motion to allow Public Works to continue to use Dyer Construction for the disposal of concrete, seconded by Mr. Connelly. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM D. Consider Acceptance of Extension of B&D Sewer for Stone, Black Dirt, and Sand for FY2026

Mr. Nondorf stated that this is an extension of the 2025 contract, which they can do in the next calendar year. He stated that prices remain the same from last year. Mr. Nondorf stated that this is for the delivery of stone, black dirt, and sand delivered to the Public Works Department or on construction sites if needed.

Mr. Schmitt made a motion to accept the extension of B&D Sewer for Stone, Black Dirt and Sand for FY2026, seconded by Mr. Connelly. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM E. Consider Annual Donation to the Tri-Town Safety Village in the Amount of \$36,400.00

Mr. Gorman stated that this is the same amount as it was last year.

Mr. Connelly made a motion to approve the Annual Donation to the Tri-Town Safety Village in the amount of \$36,400.00, seconded by Mr. Schmitt. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM F. Consider Variance of Use as Required by Ordinance No. 2004, Title XVI, Section 5, Paragraph C (3)

Board of Zoning Case: #26-2-18  
Petitioners: Kelly Turner and Tina Turner  
Location: 2436 U.S. 41 - The Dog Depot & Co.  
BZA Unfavorable Recommendation - 5-0 based  
Upon Findings

Mr. Gorman stated that this went in front of the BZA and they gave it an unfavorable recommendation. He stated that one of the petitioners is here tonight and she would like to make a statement.

Kelly Turner stated that she is the owner of the Dog Depot and she is asking the Council to reconsider the unfavorable recommendation and allow her to open up the Dog Depot. She stated that she gave the Council a packet that should show the business plan as well as the hours of operation and kind of a summary of what they are looking to do. Ms. Turner stated that she is looking to open a dog boarding and daycare facility in this Town. The hours would be Monday through Friday 7:00 am to 7:00 pm, on Saturday 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, and closed to the public on Sundays. She stated that the BZA gave it an unfavorable recommendation because there's a business located at 2433 Ontario. She stated there is an office building there with a chiropractor and an accountant. She stated that the Attorney that came during the variance meeting said that the distance is only 20' away, which is not actually correct. She went to measure it herself and it is like 66' feet away, so there is a bit of distance there and then there's also the muffler shop that is just north of their proposed center.

Mr. Johnson asked Ms. Turner if there are going to be outside dog runs where the dogs are going to be able to get some exercise, stretch their legs, that type of stuff. Ms. Turner stated that their plan is to put a 6' vinyl fence enclosure behind the facility to basically act as an outdoor relief area as well as some outdoor play time. Ms. Turner stated they even reconsidered kind of reconfiguring their original plan, which she has a sketch in the packet of how they plan to outline the fence.

Mr. Johnson asked Mr. Gorman if this is a disallowed use in the commercial corridor overlay district. Mr. Gorman stated that is correct, it does not allow dog grooming or boarding of any kind. Mr. Johnson asked Ms. Turner if they have any other business locations. Ms. Turner stated no, this will be the first brick and mortar. She stated that they have been doing this business at their homes. Mr. Johnson asked Ms. Turner if they have looked at any other locations in Schererville. He stated that personally he thinks it's a great business and it's a business that Schererville needs, but he is having a problem with the location. Mr. Connelly recommend that Ms. Turner work with town staff and perhaps there's another opportunity there for you where you don't have this challenge.

Mr. Johnson made a motion to approve the unfavorable recommendation, which is essentially a denial of your variance request, and to incorporate the BZA Findings of Fact, seconded by Mr. Connelly. All in favor (5-0).

ITEM G. Consider Acceptance of Donations \$3,035.83

Mr. Gorman read the list of donations for the month of February into the record.

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

THEREUPON, Business from the floor

Georgian Glavis, 1727 Chelsea Street, Schererville stated she is here on behalf of Logan's Love. She stated that on behalf of Nicole and herself they want to thank the Town for everything that you do for them. She stated that she wanted to introduce their dates for the 2026 events. First coming up at Redar Park on March 28<sup>th</sup> is the Easter Egg Hunt and then they have their golf outing on June 19<sup>th</sup>, the autism walk is on August 23<sup>rd</sup> and their sensory Santa event will be on December 12<sup>th</sup>. She stated that they are hoping that everyone can come out and support them.

Meeting adjourned.

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ROBIN ARVANITIS  
TOWN COUNCIL PRESIDENT

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

A TRUE COPY