

I. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board of Public Safety met in the Executive Session on Wednesday, May 15, 2024 at 8:32 a.m. with Board President Dan Jones and Board Members, Darryl Heller (not present) Lee Ross, Al Kirsits, Pamela Claeys and Attorney Danielle Weiss. At 8:48 a.m., Chief Ruzzkowski, Assistant Chief Skibins, and Attorney Connell joined the meeting. The meeting was held in the Chief's Conference Room, South Bend Police Department, 701 West Sample Street, South Bend, Indiana and virtually via Microsoft Teams for the purposes specified in I.C. 5-14-1.5-6.1(b)(6)(a) to receive information concerning and individual's alleged misconduct. The meeting concluded at 9:04 a.m.

BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY



Daniel Jones, President



Lee Ross, Member



Al Kirsits, Member



Pamela Claeys, Member

ATTEST:



Theresa Heffner, Clerk

I. REGULAR MEETING

The Board of Public Safety met in the Regular Meeting at 9:16 a.m. on Wednesday, May 15, 2024, with Board President Dan Jones, and Board Members Darryl Heller (not present) Lee Ross, Al Kirsits, and Pamela Claeys were present. Also, Police Chief Scott Ruzzkowski, Fire Chief Carl Buchanon, and Attorneys Danielle Campbell Weiss, Adam Taylor, Kylie Connell, and Board Clerk Theresa Heffner. The meeting was held in the Auditorium, South Bend Police Department, 701 West Sample Street, South Bend, Indiana and virtually via Microsoft Teams at the following link: <https://tinyurl.com/2024BPSHybrid>

Attorney Weiss asked that everyone mute their microphone when not speaking and reminded attendees that comments from the public should be saved for the Privilege of the Floor portion of the meeting. Attorney Weiss then read through the agenda to note any additions or corrections.

A. ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Board President Dan Jones welcomed the public, called roll, and confirmed the presence of the Board Members.

B. APPROVE MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Upon a motion by Pam Claeys, seconded by Lee Ross, and carried by roll call, the Board approved the Minutes of the April 17, 2024 regular meeting.

C. POLICE DEPARTMENT

1. APPROVE HIRING OF PROBATIONARY POLICE OFFICERS

Brandon Clark
Nicholas Hess
Daniel Kurz
Thomas Petrizzo

Jeffrey Rose
Nathaniel Taborn
Eric Vargo

Chief Scott Ruskowski submitted letters of Recommendation for the hiring of the Probationary Police Officers above, effective May 15, 2024. Chief Ruskowski stated the above Officers have met the requirements of the application process of the SBPD and graduated from the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy Friday, May 3, 2024.

Upon a motion by Al Kirsits, seconded by Lee Ross, and followed by a roll call, the Board approved the hiring of the above Probationary Police Officers.

2. SWEARING IN OF PROBATIONARY POLICE OFFICERS

Captain Fulnecky gave a brief biography, highlighting their talents, achievements, education, and interests. City Clerk Bianca Tirado administered the oath which was then followed by the badge pinning.

3. ACCEPT LETTERS OF RESIGNATION

Hunter Miller
Alexander Williams

Chief Scott Ruskowski submitted a letter of Resignation for the above Officers. Chief Ruskowski stated Officer Miller was sworn on the Department June 21, 2017 and his effective date of resignation was May 13, 2024. Chief noted Officer Williams was sworn on the Department April 17, 2019 and his effective date of resignation was April 13, 2024. Board Member Lee Ross accepted the Letters on behalf of the Board.

4. APPROVE LEXIPOL POLICIES

Withdrawal of 323 (Approved April 17, 2024) and Approve Corrected Policy 323
304 – Officer-Involved Shootings and Deaths
1004 – Drug-and Alcohol-Free Workplace
1017 – Outside Employment and Outside Overtime
300 – Use of Force LETB Uniform Statewide Policy

Attorney Kylie Connell submitted the above Lexipol Policies for approval and reminded the Board Members and the public that the above policies were submitted to the Board at the March 2024 Board of Public Safety Meeting. She advised Board members of the minor changes to each of the policies and noted Policy 323 is being re-submitted due to the Board Members being given an older version at last month's meeting.

Pam Claeys noted a small typo in Lexipol policy 304.

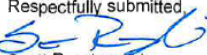
Upon a motion by Pam Claeys, seconded by Lee Ross, and followed by a roll call, the above Lexipol Policies were approved.

5. FILE MONTHLY STATISTICAL ANALYSIS REPORT APRIL 2024

Chief Scott Ruskowski submitted the monthly statistical analysis report for April 2024, and stated there was a twenty-seven percent (27%) decrease in Part One Offenses. He added that items on the transparency hub can never be exact because things can change from the time of reporting versus the results of the investigation. This can happen forty (40) to fifty (50) times per year.

The APRIL 2024 analysis is as follows:

PART 1 OFFENSES	YEAR TO DATE					
	2023	2024	CHANGE	2023	2024	CHANGE
HOMICIDE	3	0	-3	8	3	-5
JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDE*	0	0	0	1	1	0
RAPE	3	3	0	23	19	-4
ROBBERY	18	17	-1	94	71	-23
AGGRAVATED ASSLT	131	86	-45	362	309	-53
BURGLARY RES	27	32	5	148	127	-21
BURGLARY NON RES	16	11	-5	58	46	-12
LARCENY	165	125	-40	748	488	-260
MOTOR VEH THEFT	31	26	-5	169	105	-64
ARSONS	3	3	0	6	6	0
GRAND TOTAL	397	303	-94	1616	1174	-442

Respectfully submitted,

 Scott Ruskowski
 Chief of Police

SR/ijj

Month: APRIL 2024

<u>PART 1 OFFENSES</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>CHANGE</u>
HOMICIDE	8	3	-63%
JUSTIFIABLE HOMICIDE*	1	1	0%
RAPE	23	19	-17%
ROBBERY	94	71	-24%
AGGRAVATED ASSLT	362	309	-15%
BURGLARY RES.	148	127	-14%
BURGLARY NON RES.	58	46	-21%
LARCENY	748	488	-35%
MOTOR VEH THEFT	169	105	-38%
ARSONS	6	6	0%
GRAND TOTAL	1616	1174	-27%

-27% CHANGE IN PART 1 CRIMES THROUGH APRIL 2024



6. RECEIVE UPDATE OF AWARD FROM INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Chief Scott Ruskowski stated the SBPD previously received notice that they were awarded a grant to provide the officers with Adapt Pharma Nasal Narcan for four (4) years in December of 2021. Sergeant Knepper stated because of this grant, the SBPD just received one hundred (100) more units of Narcan from the State of Indiana Health Department and the St. Joseph County Department of Health. Sergeant Knepper noted this is the fourth time since receiving the award that SBPD has been able to utilize this grant, and it supplies the SBPD with an all-in-one unit requiring no assembly, that can be used immediately. Sergeant Knepper stated the SBPD is extremely grateful for this valuable tool in fighting the opioid crisis. Sergeant Knepper noted that two hundred (200) units were issued and administered in 2023.

D. FIRE DEPARTMENT

1. ACCEPT LETTER OF RESIGNATION – JUSTIN RANKERT

Chief Carl Buchanon submitted a letter of Resignation for Justin Rankert. Chief Buchanon stated Firefighter Rankert was appointed to the SBF on August 18, 2023, and his effective date of resignation was May 8, 2024.

2. FILE MONTHLY STATISTICAL ANALYSIS REPORT FOR APRIL 2024

Chief Carl Buchanon submitted the monthly statistical analysis report for April 2024. He noted that the inspection division completed 211 inspections by three (3) inspectors and one (1) part-time inspector that is helping out. This number does not include the number of times that the inspectors had to go back to a location to do a second inspection.

Chief Buchanon explained that the smoke detector program provides free detectors to be

installed by a firefighter, so they can ensure they are working properly and are installed in the appropriate locations.

Pam Claeys asked why there is such a large amount of damage in structural fires.

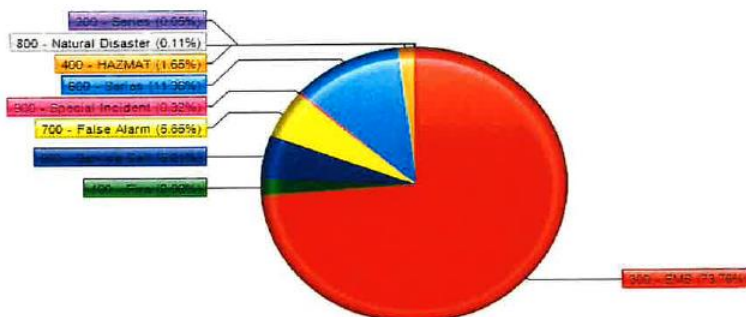
Chief Buchanon noted that they have upticks at times. He noted that they are responding to two (2) house or business fires each day.

Pam Claeys noted that there were a lot of events and 1500 hours in March.

Chief Buchanon stated that community outreach is vital. If we can market the younger minds, they will take it home to the adults.

APRIL 2023	APRIL 2024
STRUCTURE FIRES Property Damage--Buildings & Contents (Estimates)	
\$175,900	\$534,300
INSPECTION DIVISON	
187 Inspections	211 Inspections
INVESTIGATION DIVISON	
16 Investigations	10 Cause of Ignition
3 Incendiary 9 Accidental 0 Natural 4 Undetermined	6 Unintentional 2 Under Investigation 2 Failure of equip./heat source

2024 April Incident Type	Fire Department Monthly Breakdown
100 - Fire	39
200 - Series	1
300 - EMS	1383
400 - HAZMAT	31
500 - Service Call	94
600 - Series	213
700 - False Alarm	106
800 - Natural Disaster	2
900 - Special Incident	6
Monthly Total	1875



E. PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

Attorney Weiss reminded the public to use the hand-raising function of Microsoft Teams to indicate their desire to speak during Privilege of the Floor. She reminded attendees that they would be allotted three (3) minutes to speak.

There was no one present or virtual that wanted to speak.

F. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, upon a motion by Lee Ross, seconded by Al Kirsits, and carried by roll call, the meeting was adjourned at 10:02 a.m.

BOARD OF PUBLIC SAFETY



Daniel Jones, President



Lee Ross, Member



Al Kirsits, Member



Pamela Claey, Member

ATTEST:



Theresa Heffner, Clerk