1. Police Chief's Report

Chief Scheckel explained the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) to the Board from the School Town. The reason for the update was because Officer Cooley was added as the School Resource Officer at the middle school. Town Council asked the Board for approval prior to it going before Council. Mr. Westland added that in Section 8 of the document, either party can cancel the agreement. Chief Scheckel clarified that the School Town is paying all of Officer Cooley's salary to include benefits. They also contribute $50,000.00 towards Officer lsenblatter's salary and the department covers the salary of Officer Ghrist.

Mr. Maloney motioned for the Board of Safety to approve the Memorandum of Understanding with the School Town of Munster, sending it to the Town Council for final approval. Mr. Clark seconded the motion. All members present voted aye by roll call vote, motion approved 5-0.

During a recent Work Study with the Town Council regarding future needs, Chief Scheckel asked for an additional six (6) officers, due to the two (2) train stations being operational in 2025. He asked for the department's sworn strength to be increased each year by two (2) officers for the next three (3) years, for a total of forty-nine {49) officers by 2025. According to FBI standards, based on the population of Munster, we should be at fifty-eight (58). With the anticipated increase in calls for service and commuters traveling in and out of town from the Chicago area the additional officers are needed.

Mr. Clark motioned for the Board of Safety to recommend to the Town Council an increase of two (2) sworn positions for the Police Department next year, 2023. Ms. Dunn seconded the motion. All members present voted aye by roll call vote, motion approved 5-0.

The department currently has three (3) open positions now. The traditional hiring process list of eligibles has been extinguished. From that list two (2) are slated for the academy in January. The department is currently taking applications from certified officers to fill the remaining vacancy. The deadline is 4:00 p.m., Friday, October 21st. Unfortunately, all departments in the area are also having trouble filing their open positions. The department is currently working with Highland and Griffith on recruitment options and ideas to attract individuals to the field of law enforcement. The department will close the Emergency Hiring process today at 4:00 p.m. Going forward we will run both processes, traditional and emergency, concurrently and see what we attract.

Mr. Maloney motioned to authorize the Police Department to concurrently run traditional and emergency hiring processes. Dr. Dershewitz seconded the motion. All members present voted aye by roll call vote, motion approved 5-0.

Chief Scheckel informed the Board of Lake County's decision to no longer cover our fatal traffic accidents. The department will utilize South County Crash Team, which is made up of Lake County municipalities. They work with Purdue who can get the department results in approximately two (2) days. There will be a Memorandum of Understanding which will go before this Board prior to the Town Council. The cost will be approximately $500.00 annually.