1. Police Chief's Report

Chief Scheckel informed the Board of the Police Department's virtual onsite CALEA assessment March gth and gth. Lt. Johnston has been working hard setting up the calendar for the two (2) day assessment. Lt. Johnston said they will be conducting interviews over the phone with members of the staff and community to get to know us and learn how we interact with the community and other law enforcement agencies. Lt. Johnston will be contacting some of those present at this meeting to be part of the interview process. They have already looked at all our proofs and policies, so this is the opportunity for them to get to know us as a police agency.

The last day will end with a public call-in session as well as an exit interview for staff. We have had four good years of compliance with our policies and procedures and we will keep moving forward with what we are doing. This is also a good way for us to see what is working well or what improvements, if any, need to be made.

Chief Scheckel asked Lt. Johnston to inform the Board of our grant qualification. Lt. Johnston said that to qualify for federal grants, police agencies need to have certain policies and procedures in place, such as use of force. By being CALEA certified we are already eligible to receive federal grant funding. Lt. Johnston thanked the officers and staff for everything that was done for our recertification.

Chief Scheckel stated 2020 was a tumultuous year and 2021 is not starting much better. He is happy to report, except for the problems we are having with Illinois right now, our stats at the lowest in decades. We finished off last year with stats lower than 2019, even with all the unrest. The officers did a good job protecting this town. As the Board knows, there were mobs looting in communities all around us, though they never did hit Munster. That is a testament to our officers on the street, taking their job seriously. It has been a difficult year for law enforcement. Chicago car jackings are up over 400% and there has been some spillover into Indiana. We currently meet and patrol with other agencies, such as State Police and the Sheriff's Office, in areas seeing problems, which results in multiple arrests. A lot of the arrests are felons with guns and juveniles, who are put up to these tasks, as the criminal justice system

tends to go light on juveniles. With the bad weather we have been experiencing it seems to have kept the criminals at bay. We are doing everything we can, especially through the Calumet Avenue corridor, to lessen the threat of car jackings. Eleven (11) years ago, we were the first agency in northwest Indiana to implement License Plate Recognition. Officers are constantly monitoring their LPR's as cars exit the expressway, which will alert them to a stolen vehicle entering our town. Officers can stop, or attempt to stop the vehicle, before anything can occur. Many of the car jackings are done with vehicles stolen out of the city, coming here to car jack another car and escaping back to the city via the expressway. This does result in many pursuits, though we are running them out of town before they can do anything. Mr.

Baffa asked if the LPR's were monitored only in the vehicles? Chief Scheckel said no, it is also monitored on station. Many agencies in Illinois have a no pursuit policy. Criminals are under the assumption that all they have to do is speed up and officers will not pursue them. We have a pursuit policy due to CALEA, though we can pursue and arrest the suspects and then they go before a judge for bond. In Illinois, once arrested they sign a I-bond, stating that they will appear in court at a later date. Law Enforcement must continue to support the practice of arrestees going before a judge, having a bond hearing, and posting a cash bond, as this is the

only thing that helps from Illinois repeat offenders coming into Indiana to commit crimes. It is thanks to a group of dedicated officers, risking their lives every day, to keep our residents safe.