

A Scottsburg man who allegedly threatened a neighbor while armed with an ax is now behind bars.

The incident on Thursday, October 5, resulted in Scottsburg Patrolman Travis Rutherford being dispatched to an apartment complex on Mansfield Drive. He talked to the neighbor who said he had been threatened by Joseph J. Donahue, 35, Scottsburg.

The neighbor said he and Donahue had been having a verbal exchange of words when Donahue left, going into his apartment. He returned armed with the ax, allegedly telling the man, "I am going to kill you."

The neighbor said he drew his firearm and pointed the weapon at Donahue. That caused Donahue to run back inside his apartment.

Ptl. Rutherford and Sgt. Brian Hall knocked on Donahue's door but could not get him to respond. The property manager finally made contact with Donahue and got him to talk to the officers.

Ptl. Rutherford told Donahue that the neighbor and another witness told a different version about what happened. Donahue reportedly denied having an ax, saying he had come out armed with his son's Ninja stick.

Officers found the ax under a mattress and box spring set. The alleged weapon is sometimes known as a splitting maul, which is used by wood cutters. Donahue was taken into custody and taken to the Scott County Security Center.

He is charged with two counts of intimidation, one a Level 5 felony and a second that is a Level 6 felony.

At his initial hearing on Tuesday, October 10, he was assigned an initial jury trial date of January 8 and provided with a public defender.

Bail was set at \$50,000 by corporate surety bond or \$5,000 cash.