

ST. JOHN POLICE COMMISSION

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING ON JULY 12, 2004

The July 2004 Regular Meeting of the Board of Metropolitan Police Commissioners of the Town of St. John was held on July 12, 2004 at 7:30 P.M., as advertised, pursuant to law. Commissioner Dodaro called the meeting to order and then led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance. Roll call was taken with the following members of the Police Commission being present; namely, William Dodaro, Donald Farris, Rose Hejl, Robert Long and Ronald Vale. Also present were Chief Fred Frego and Town Council Liaison Charles Pearson. Representing the Law Firm of Austgen, Decker and Phillips PC was Attorney Timothy Kuiper.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MONTH'S MINUTES

Commissioner Hejl made a motion to approve and accept the minutes from the June 1, 2004 Executive Session and the June 14, 2004 Regular Meeting as written. With a second by Commissioner Farris, the motion carried unanimously (5-0).

CORRESPONDENCE / COMMUNICATIONS

There were no items of "Correspondence / Communications" brought before the Commission.

POLICE DEPARTMENT'S MONTHLY REPORT

Chief Frego read the monthly report for June 2004. Chief Frego stated that from June 1, 2004 through June 30, 2004, the members of the St. John Police Department logged 16,515 duty miles and responded to 433 incidents. The investigation of these incidents resulted in 15 adult arrests with a total of 26 charges, and 5 juvenile arrests with a total of 6 charges. There were 249 traffic citations issued along with 58 written warnings and 0 parking violations. The grand total of citations issued during the month of June 2004 is 307 citations. Vehicle thefts totaled \$7,000.00 during the month of June 2004. All other thefts totaled \$18,126.00. Total value of recovered property was \$2,450.00. Chief Frego also advised that the officers of the St. John Police Department, while working the OPO / DUI Taskforce Grants, issued 34 traffic citations and 54 written warnings for a total of 78 citations being issued on the grants during the month of June 2004. The investigation of these violations resulted in 6 adult arrests with 16 charges being filed and 1 juvenile arrest with 1 charge being filed on the grants for the month of June 2004.

OLD BUSINESS

Vests – Chief Frego advised he spoke with Corporal D. Demeter earlier today regarding this matter. Cpl. Demeter advised that it was decided to go with the Monarch Second Chance Vests, Threat Level II. Cpl. Demeter also advised that he is in the process of obtaining prices on this item. Regarding the Reserve Officers, it was decided to go with the Monarch Vests, which is just a little bit bulkier than the Second Chance, but it is substantially less expensive than the Second Chance vest.

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Chief Frego advised the Commission the Police Department obtained a second ATV as of Friday, July 9, 2004. The department now has two (2) ATV units. The second ATV will be painted and marked to match the first ATV. One of the ATVs will be at the St. John the Evangelist Festival (July 15-18, 2004). When the second unit is ready, the Department will begin patrolling the parks and on the side streets with the ATVs for the remainder of the summer. The ATV patrols will be between the hours of 7:00 P.M. to 11:00 P.M. In response to Commissioner Farris' question, Chief Frego advised the officers would be receiving a 40-hour training course through the Schererville Police Department, which has certified trainers. A policy will be written on this matter and then presented to the Commission for approval and adoption.

REPORTS

Budget – There was nothing new to report at this time.

Physical Plant – Chief Frego advised there is a meeting scheduled for Thursday, July 15, 2004, at 10:30 A.M. with the Town Manager, the Public Works Director, the Fire and Police Chiefs, members of the Town Council and an architect for the purpose of planning a new Public Safety Complex. Chief Frego stated he would have a report for next month's meeting. Ground breaking is not expected until sometime in the Year 2005.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Chief of Police – Certification – Chief Frego advised he now has full police powers in the State of Indiana. Chief Frego stated his paperwork for State Certification has been forwarded to the Academy in Plainfield, Indiana, and he is just waiting for them to meet on this matter, which is expected sometime in August, 2004.

New Reserve Officer Update – Chief Frego advised that the five (5) new Reserve Officers have completed their 40-hour pre-basic training, and they are currently attending the Department's in-house Reserve Office Training.

NEW BUSINESS

St. John the Evangelist Festival – Police Department Booth – Gun Locks – Commissioner Dodaro advised the Police Department will have an information booth at the St. John the Evangelist Festival scheduled this weekend (July 15-18, 2004). Members of the Department have volunteered to man the booth and will hand out Crime Prevention materials, balloons, and gunlocks. Commissioner Long advised that the festival would be scaled back this year compared to the past years as there will be no carnival rides. The main events would be the beer tent and the gambling. Commissioner Long stated that in years past, he has noticed theft from people at the gaming tables, wherein people just walk up and take chips off the tables. He stated this is small theft, but he would like the officers working the festival to keep an eye on this. And for the police officers who are off-duty and in attendance at the festival, he stated the officers should enjoy themselves, but they should also remain professional.

CHIEF'S COMMENTS

Chief Frego stated he had no comments to make at this time.

ANY AND ALL

There were no matters of "Any and All" brought forward at tonight's meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no "Public Comments" made.

MEETING SCHEDULE

The next Regular Meeting will be on Monday, August 9, 2004. There will be no Work Study Session held on August 9, 2004, so the Regular Public Meeting will begin at 7:00 P.M. Further, the Commission decided to eliminate all future Work Study Sessions, unless there is a need for one. In that case, the Commission will make proper notification regarding a Work Study Session. Also, all future Regular Public Meetings will now begin at 7:00 P.M. Any and all other Executive Sessions will be advertised pursuant to law.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Vale made a motion for adjournment. With a second by Commissioner Long, the meeting was adjourned.

Town of St. John, Lake County
Indiana, Board of Metropolitan
Police Commissioners

Rose Hejl, Secretary

ATTEST:

Joan M. Kolodziej, Recording Secretary