

ST. JOHN POLICE COMMISSION

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 13, 2004

The September 2004 Regular Meeting of the Board of Metropolitan Police Commissioners of the Town of St. John was held on September 13, 2004 at 7:00 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, and Rose Hejl. Also present were Police Chief Fred Frego and Town Council Liaison Charles Pearson. Commissioner Robert Long arrived just after the "Approval of Previous Month's Minutes." Commissioner Ron Vale was not present at tonight's meeting. There was no representative present tonight from the Law Firm of Austgen, Decker and Phillips, P.C.; however, they were on stand-by should they be needed.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MONTH'S MINUTES

Commissioner Hejl made a motion to approve and accept the minutes from the August 9, 2004 Regular Meeting as written. With a second by Commissioner Farris, the motion carried unanimously (3-0).

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 August 2004. Chief Frego stated that from August 1, 2004 through August 31, 2004, the members of the St. John Police Department logged 20,542 duty miles and responded to 427 incidents. The investigation of these incidents resulted in 21 adult arrests with a total of 35 charges, and 2 juvenile arrests with a total of 2 charges. There were 238 traffic citations issued along with 73 written warnings and 3 parking violations. The grand total of citations issued during the month of August 2004 is 314 citations. Vehicle thefts totaled \$20,000.00 during the month of August 2004. All other thefts totaled \$46,530.00. Total value of recovered property was \$6,031.00. Regarding grant activity, Chief Frego stated that the officers of the St. John Police Department, while working the OPO / DUI Taskforce Grants, issued 43 traffic citations and 150 written warnings for a total of 179 citations being issued on the grants during the month of August 2004. The investigation of these violations resulted in 12 adult arrests with 26 charges being filed and 0 juvenile arrests with 0 charges being filed on the grants for the month of August 2004.

OLD BUSINESS

Vests – Chief Frego stated the purchase of the vests for the officers through the grant is currently on hold. It was learned that the Second Chance Monarch vests, which the Department was going to purchase for the officers, are made with a material called "zylon." This material is presently being studied as there were two (2) officers wearing zylon vests that were shot and killed. Apparently, the vests did not work as intended. The vests that the St.

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John officers are currently wearing are not made with zylon. To date, only one (1) new vest has been bought through the grant; that would be Officer S. Flores' vest. Presently, the Department is looking for another vest that is competitive in price and which will do the job. The monies available through the grant are good until the Year 2007.

St. John the Evangelist Festival – Police Department Booth – Gunlocks – Chief Frego advised that gunlocks were not distributed at the St. John the Evangelist Festival due to a request from the Festival Committee. The Committee construed the meaning of passing out gunlocks as indicating the Police Department was promoting gun ownership. Instead, the Police Department distributed about 1000 balloons, plus numerous badges and pamphlets. Chief Frego stated the Department intends to be present at next year's festival. Commissioner Farris stated that the officers wearing the white shirts at the festival really looked sharp. Chief Frego stated that all Police Department employees who worked the festival did so strictly on a volunteer basis.

REPORTS

Budget – Chief Frego stated the Police Department's 2005 Budget has already been approved and adopted by the Town Council.

Physical Plant – Chief Frego advised that a second meeting was held with the architect regarding a new facility. At that time, the architect was supplied with information as to each department's needs (i.e., office space, community rooms, etc.). The architect will then be putting together a preliminary drawing based on these requirements. At this time, it is still unknown if the Police Department will remain in the current building during construction of the new facility.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Chief of Police – Certification – Chief Frego stated he is still not certified. He advised he would be traveling to the Police Academy in Plainfield, Indiana on September 15, 2004, for an exam and interview. At that time, he will be provided with a schedule of exams that he must pass to become certified. There will be tests on Firearms, Indiana Traffic Law, and Criminal Law. After the test on Criminal Law, Chief Frego will be required to qualify on the range. Chief Frego stated he hopes to complete all necessary aspects for certification by the end of October 2004.

New Reserve Officer Update – Chief Frego advised that Reserve Officer Anthony Konvalinka was sworn in on Thursday, September 9, 2004, as he is leaving for the Police Academy in Plainfield, Indiana. The other four (4) reserve officers will be sworn in at the Town Council Meeting scheduled for September 16, 2004. All new reserves have completed the classroom portion of their training, and a couple of them have been seen sitting in the Radio Room and observing the operations of Dispatch. After they have been sworn in, the reserves will begin riding with the FTO's in their cars.

NEW BUSINESS

There were no items of new business brought before the commission at tonight's meeting.

CHIEF'S COMMENTS

Chief Frego stated everything is going well.

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, October 11, 2004. There will be no Work Study Session held on October 11, 2004, so the Regular Public Meeting will begin at 7:00 P.M. Any and all other Executive Sessions will be advertised pursuant to law.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Hejl 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