

ST. JOHN POLICE COMMISSION

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING ON OCTOBER 11, 2004

The October 2004 Regular Meeting of the Board of Metropolitan Police Commissioners of the Town of St. John was held on October 11, 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, Rose Hejl, Robert Long and Ronald Vale. Also present was Police Chief Fred Frego. Representing the Town Council at tonight's meeting was Jerri Teibel. Commissioner Donald Farris was not present at tonight's meeting. No representation was requested for tonight's meeting from the Law Firm of Austgen, Decker and Phillips, P.C.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MONTH'S MINUTES

Commissioner Hejl made a motion to approve and accept the minutes from the September 13, 2004 Regular Meeting as written. With a second by Commissioner Long, the motion carried unanimously (4-0).

CORRESPONDENCE / COMMUNICATIONS

Chief Frego presented the Commission with correspondence he had received from Officer Philip W. Lewis, #16 Cedar Lake Police Department. In his correspondence, Officer Lewis is requesting that his name be removed from the Final Register of Police Officer Candidates created March 20, 2004, as he has been hired by the Cedar Lake Police Department. Officer Lewis was Number 6 on the St. John Police Department's Final Register. Commissioner Dodaro advised that Officer Lewis' name will remain on the list and should he be offered a position with the St. John Police Department at a later date, he may choose to decline said offer at that time.

POLICE DEPARTMENT'S MONTHLY REPORT

Chief Frego read the monthly report for September 2004. Chief Frego stated that from September 1, 2004 through September 30, 2004, the members of the St. John Police Department logged 18,847 duty miles and responded to 394 incidents. The investigation of these incidents resulted in 26 adult arrests with a total of 40 charges, and 2 juvenile arrests with a total of 4 charges. There were 172 traffic citations issued along with 52 written warnings and 2 parking violations. The grand total of citations issued during the month of September 2004 is 226 citations. Vehicle thefts totaled \$0.00 during the month of September 2004. All other thefts totaled \$4,185.00. Total value of recovered property was \$756.00. Regarding grant activity, Chief Frego stated that the officers of the St. John Police Department, while working the OPO / DUI Taskforce Grants, issued 20 traffic citations and 84 written warnings for a total of 104 citations being issued on the grants during the month of September 2004. The investigation of these violations resulted in 6 adult arrests with 8 charges being filed and 0 juvenile arrests with 0 charges being filed on the grants for the month of September 2004.

OLD BUSINESS

Vests – Chief Frego stated this matter is on hold.

REPORTS

Budget – There was nothing new to report on this matter.

Physical Plant – Chief Frego advised the Town Council will be officially announcing the building of a new facility, and discussion will be held involving bond issues. Preliminary meetings are still being conducted with the architect.

HUMAN RESOURCES

New Reserve Officer Update – Chief Frego advised that the new Reserve Officers are in the FTO phase. They are riding with officers and talking on the radio. Of the five reserve officers hired, only three are in the FTO Phase. Reserve Officer Jerrod Martin is being sent to Iraq as a member of the Reserve Forces, and Officer Anthony Konvalinka is attending the Police Academy in Plainfield, Indiana.

NEW BUSINESS

Open House – Chief Frego advised that the annual Open House was a huge success. In talking with Fire Chief F. Willman, it was learned that approximately 700 people were in attendance at this event. A lot of balloons were given away, along with police patch tattoos. Lake County was able to assist by arranging for their helicopter to make an appearance and also, there was a K-9 demonstration.

Gun Locks – Chief Frego stated not many gun locks were disbursed at the Open House. Gun locks are now available to residents at the St. John Police Department.

CHIEF'S COMMENTS

Chief Frego advised that on October 27, 2004, he is going to be "arrested" as part of a fund raising event for MS for Northwest Indiana.

Chief Frego stated he was in Plainfield, Indiana, approximately a month ago for the initial interview and test regarding his certification. Chief Frego stated he is going back to Plainfield on October 12, 2004 for more tests and to qualify on the range. There is one more session to attend in Plainfield and hopefully, by the end of October 2004, the certification process will be complete. Commissioner Dodaro advised this matter would be placed back on the agenda for the November meeting.

ANY AND ALL

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. James Curran, of 8780 Patterson Avenue, suggested that the Commission consider the implementation of "Motorcycle Cop Program" similar to that of Schererville PD's program. Commissioner Dodaro stated that this is something the Commission could consider for next year.

MEETING SCHEDULE

The next Regular Meeting will be on Monday, November 8, 2004. There will be no Work Study Session held on November 8, 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 Vale, 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