

## **ST. JOHN POLICE COMMISSION**

### **MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING ON NOVEMBER 8, 2004**

The November 2004 Regular Meeting of the Board of Metropolitan Police Commissioners of the Town of St. John was held on November 8, 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, Rose Hejl, and Ronald Vale. Also present was Police Chief Fred Frego. Representing the Town Council at tonight's meeting was Councilman Charles Pearson. Commissioner Robert Long 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 October 11, 2004 Regular Meeting as written. With a second by Commissioner Vale, the motion carried unanimously (4-0).

### **CORRESPONDENCE / COMMUNICATIONS**

There were no items of "Correspondence / Communications" presented at tonight's meeting.

### **POLICE DEPARTMENT'S MONTHLY REPORT**

Chief Frego read the monthly report for October 2004. Chief Frego stated that from October 1, 2004 through October 31, 2004, the members of the St. John Police Department logged 20,251 duty miles and responded to 403 incidents. The investigation of these incidents resulted in 20 adult arrests with a total of 36 charges, and 2 juvenile arrests with a total of 2 charges. There were 203 traffic citations issued along with 79 written warnings and 6 parking violations. The grand total of citations issued during the month of October 2004 is 288 citations. Vehicle thefts totaled \$0.00 during the month of October 2004. All other thefts totaled \$1,457.00. Total value of recovered property was \$315.00. Regarding grant activity, Chief Frego stated that the officers of the St. John Police Department, while working the OPO / DUI Taskforce Grants, issued 27 traffic citations and 77 written warnings for a total of 103 citations being issued on the grants during the month of October 2004. The investigation of these violations resulted in 10 adult arrests with 17 charges being filed and 0 juvenile arrests with 0 charges being filed on the grants for the month of October 2004.

Chief Frego advised that the Police Department conducted a roadblock on Friday, October 22, 2004 from 10:00 P.M. to 2:00 A.M. The location of this roadblock was southbound Wicker Avenue with the check area being located in the K-Mart parking lot. The officers had three (3) DUI arrests made, six (6) suspended drivers, one (1) never licensed driver and six (6) miscellaneous tickets. Approximately 640 cars were checked during this roadblock.

Chief Frego also advised that the Police Department, in conjunction with the State Motor Carrier Division, conducted an overweight truck enforcement detail in the vicinity of northbound U.S. 41, with the check area being located in the Alsip Home & Nursery parking lot. Corporal D.

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Poston and Officer S. Rudzinski assisted with this detail. Three or four trucks were found to be overweight, and there were a couple of unsafe equipment violators located. The Police Department will continue to conduct overweight truck enforcement on a regular basis. Currently, the State Police is the only law enforcement agency that can issue citations to overweight trucks on U.S. 41. The St. John Police Department can cite overweight trucks only on Town streets. Some discussion ensued. Commissioner Dodaro stated he felt the Police Department did an excellent job on these details.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Chief's Certification** – Chief Frego advised he has another trip scheduled in one week to go back to Plainfield, Indiana, for the last phase of the certification process (criminal law orientation). On November 29, 2004, he will return to Plainfield for the criminal law test. CPR certification is scheduled for Saturday, November 20, 2004.

### **REPORTS**

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

**Physical Plant** – Chief Frego stated he had a conversation with Town Manager Steven Kil, and he advised that the architect is finishing up the preliminary plans for a Public Safety Complex. Department heads will be able to review the preliminary plans and make any changes they deem necessary.

### **HUMAN RESOURCES**

**New Reserve Officer Update** – Chief Frego advised that the new Reserve Officers are riding with officers and talking on the radio. Chief Frego stated he received information today that Reserve Officer Jerrod Martin did not deploy to Iraq, and he will be re-entering the Reserve Officer Training Program. Some discussion ensued. Chief Frego stated he would be speaking with Officer Martin at a later date to determine if the reason he was considered un-deployable will prevent him from performing his duties as a Reserve Officer.

**Offer Letters to Next Two (2) Police Officer Candidates on Final Register** – Commissioner Dodaro stated they have two (2) letters prepared for signature to be sent to the next two (2) Police Officer Candidates on the Final Register. Said letters are conditional offers of employment pending the approval of the Town Council at their meeting scheduled for November 18, 2004. The letters are addressed to Albert Amptmeyer and Nicholas Stamate.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

There were no items of "New Business" brought before the Commission at tonight's meeting.

### **CHIEF'S COMMENTS**

Chief Frego advised he had no comments.

**ANY AND ALL**

Commissioner Farris questioned the status of the vest purchases for the officers. Chief Frego advised the grant for the purchase of the vests is good until 2007. However, due to the fact that the material (zylon) in the Second Chance vests is believed to be defective, this matter is currently on hold. Chief Frego stated there are law suits currently pending due to a couple of officers who were shot and killed while wearing these vests. For obvious reasons, the Department does not wish to purchase these vests. The matter is being researched further and when a decision is reached as to another vest to go with, the purchases will be made at that time.

Town Councilman Chuck Pearson asked Chief Frego if research could be conducted to find assistance, possibly a grant, which would enable the hiring of additional officers so that the Town could have more officers out on patrol. Councilman Pearson advised he observed one of his neighbors almost get whacked on Patterson by a car that ran a stop sign. Councilman Pearson stated he felt that the Town really needs more officers on the street. Mr. James Curran, who resides at 8780 Patterson, advised that starting at approximately 10:30 P.M., there is a lot of semi truck traffic running down Patterson Street, and it continues all night long. Some discussion ensued.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Town Councilwoman Jerri Teibel, who present in the audience, congratulated Chief Frego on the birth of his first grandchild, Charles Joseph Nichols.

**MEETING SCHEDULE**

The next Regular Meeting will be on Monday, December 13, 2004. There will be no Work Study Session held on December 13, 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 Farris, the meeting was adjourned.

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

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Rose Hejl, Secretary

ATTEST:

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Joan M. Kolodziej, Recording Secretary