

## **ST. JOHN POLICE COMMISSION**

### **MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING ON JANUARY 10, 2005**

The January 2005 Regular Meeting of the Board of Metropolitan Police Commissioners of the Town of St. John was held on January 10, 2005 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. Representing the Law Firm of Austgen, Decker and Phillips, P.C. at tonight's meeting was Attorney Timothy Kuiper. Commissioner Robert Long was not present at tonight's meeting.

#### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

**President** – Commissioner Hejl nominated Commissioner William Dodaro as President of the Board of Metropolitan Police Commissioners of the Town of St. John for the Year 2005. With a second by Commissioner Farris, the motion carried unanimously.

**Vice President** – Commissioner Farris nominated Commissioner Ronald Vale as the Vice-President of the Board of Metropolitan Police Commissioners of the Town of St. John for the Year 2005. With a second by Commissioner Hejl, the motion carried unanimously.

**Secretary** – Commissioner Dodaro nominated Commissioner Rose Hejl as Secretary of the Board of Metropolitan Police Commissioners of the Town of St. John for the Year 2005. With a second by Commissioner Farris, the motion carried unanimously.

**Recording Secretary** – Commissioner Hejl made a motion to retain Ms. Joan Kolodziej as Recording Secretary for the Board of Metropolitan Police Commissioners of the Town of St. John for the Year 2005. With a second by Commissioner Vale, the motion carried unanimously.

**Legal Counsel** – Commissioner Hejl made a motion to retain the Law Firm of Austgen, Decker, and Phillips PC as legal counsel for the Board of Metropolitan Police Commissioners of the Town of St. John for the Year 2005. With a second by Commissioner Farris, the motion carried unanimously.

#### **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MONTH'S MINUTES**

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

#### **CORRESPONDENCE / COMMUNICATIONS**

There were no items of "Correspondence or Communications" brought before the Commission at tonight's meeting.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT'S MONTHLY REPORT**

Chief Frego read the monthly report for December 2004. Chief Frego stated that from December 1, 2004 through December 31, 2004, the members of the St. John Police Department logged 16,206 duty miles and responded to 346 incidents. The investigation of these incidents resulted in 16 adult arrests with a total of 33 charges, and 0 juvenile arrests with a total of 0 charges. There were 45 traffic citations issued along with 61 written warnings and 39 parking violations. The grand total of citations issued during the month of December 2004 is 145 citations. Vehicle thefts totaled \$0.00 during the month of December 2004. All other thefts totaled \$14,914.00. Chief Frego stated that the majority of these monies were related to a theft from a house under construction (i.e., power equipment, tools, etc.). Total value of recovered property was \$1,000.00. Regarding grant activity, Chief Frego stated that the officers of the St. John Police Department, while working the OPO / DUI Taskforce Grants, issued 17 traffic citations and 82 written warnings for a total of 99 citations being issued on the grants during the month of December 2004. The investigation of these violations resulted in 7 adult arrests with 13 charges being filed and 3 juvenile arrests with 4 charges being filed on the grants for the month of December 2004.

**OLD BUSINESS**

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

**REPORTS**

**Budget** – Chief Frego stated the budget for the Year 2005 has been approved and is in place.

**Physical Plant** – Chief Frego stated a meeting was held today, and another one is scheduled for tomorrow, for reviewing, discussing and revising the preliminary plans for the new facility.

**HUMAN RESOURCES**

**New Officer Update** – Commissioner Dodaro advised the two (2) new officers were sworn in on December 28, 2004, and they will be placed on the schedule as of January 1, 2005. Chief Frego stated that since the two (2) new officers were formerly Reserve Officers for the Town of St. John, they would be working the streets until approximately January 18, 2005. The officers will then be attending a two (2) week satellite training course held locally. Both officers will report at the Academy on January 31, 2005 to begin their formal training.

**Reserve Officers** – Chief Frego advised that a couple of applications have been received for Reserve Officers, but not many. Chief Frego stated that possibly the Department will have to advertise in the newspapers to obtain more applicants.

**NEW BUSINESS**

There were no items of “New Business” brought before the Commission at tonight’s meeting.

**CHIEF’S COMMENTS**

Chief Frego stated he had no comments.

**ANY AND ALL**

There were no items brought forward for discussion under this topic.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. James Curran, of 8780 Patterson Street, stated that his neighborhood lost power around Thanksgiving for approximately 30 hours. The power loss started on a Wednesday night and was not restored until the early hours on Friday morning. Mr. Curran suggested that since the Police Department is now hiring new policeman all the time, that the officers could go door-to-door during situations like a power outage to check on residents to see if everybody was okay, and whether help or assistance was needed. Possibly, the officers could even transport the residents to a warming center. Mr. Curran stated during that 30-hour power outage, he personally walked through his neighborhood and knocked on all the doors to see if anybody needed anything. Mr. Curran stated there are a lot of elderly people in his neighborhood, and he suggested that the Police Department should check on them. Chief Frego asked Mr. Curran if he had contacted the Police Department during the power outage and suggest at that time, not a month and a half later, that the Police check on the residents in that location. Mr. Curran questioned why he should have to make that call. Commissioner Dodaro explained that the Police Department does not always know of all the power outages. Some discussion ensued. Mr. Curran was commended by the entire Commission for his efforts during the power outage, and advised that his suggestion was well taken, duly noted, and definitely appreciated.

**MEETING SCHEDULE**

The next Regular Meeting will be on Monday, February 14, 2005. There will be no Work Study Session held on February 14, 2005, 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