

## **ST. JOHN POLICE COMMISSION**

### **MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING ON MARCH 14, 2005**

The March 2005 Regular Meeting of the Board of Metropolitan Police Commissioners of the Town of St. John was held on March 14, 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. Commissioner Robert Long arrived shortly after the start of the meeting. Attorney Timothy Kuiper, from the Law Firm of Austgen, Decker and Phillips, was also not present at tonight's meeting.

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

Commissioner Hejl made a motion to approve and accept the minutes from the February 8, 2005 Regular Meeting as written. With a second by Commissioner Vale, the motion carried unanimously (4-0).

### **CORRESPONDENCE / COMMUNICATIONS**

Commissioner Dodaro read a "Job Wanted" Application, which was a school project completed by Miss Frankie Turturillo, Officer James Turturillo's daughter. In her application, Frankie states she "wants a job as a Police Officer. I like to save people. I feel important when I save people. My dad is a police officer so I want to be one. I want to catch people. I want to be a police officer because I will feel important when I would put on my uniform. I would like to put handcuffs on people. I would love my job!" Frankie Turturillo is approximately 7 years old.

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

Chief Frego read the monthly report for February 2005. Chief Frego stated that from February 1, 2005 through February 28, 2005, the members of the St. John Police Department logged 17,591 duty miles and responded to 325 incidents. The investigation of these incidents resulted in 9 adult arrests with a total of 16 charges, and 1 juvenile arrest with a total of 2 charges. There were 177 traffic citations issued along with 77 written warnings and 1 parking violation. The grand total of citations issued during the month of February 2005 is 255 citations. Vehicle thefts totaled \$35,000.00 during the month of February 2005. All other thefts totaled \$42,703.00. Total value of recovered property was \$37,000.00. Regarding grant activity, Chief Frego stated that the officers of the St. John Police Department, while working the OPO / DUI Taskforce Grants, issued 115 traffic citations and 152 written warnings for a total of 267 citations being issued on the grants during the month of February 2005. The investigation of these violations resulted in 10 adult arrests with 19 charges being filed and 0 juvenile arrests with 0 charges being filed on the grants for the month of February 2005.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

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

## REPORTS

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

**Physical Plant** – Chief Frego stated he has received a set of drawings regarding the new facility. The plan is to begin with the Public Works portion of this project. It is anticipated that ground breaking for the new Police Station will be in September of 2005, with completion in September of 2006. Chief Frego advised they are currently researching ranges and related equipment. Some discussion ensued.

## HUMAN RESOURCES

**New Officer Update** – Chief Frego stated he spent a week at the Academy, in Plainfield, Indiana, while attending the Chief's School. He has now completed the final phase of his certification as a Chief of Police. During this time, he had occasion to see Officers N. Stamate and M. Moffitt. They are doing well. Chief Frego said the officers are in their 7<sup>th</sup> week of the academy. Regarding his certification, Chief Frego advised is certified, and the process is complete.

## NEW BUSINESS

**Revised General Order 14.05 – Mobile Audio / Video Recording Equipment, and New General Order 14.07 – On Station Audio / Video Recording Equipment** – Chief Frego stated the purpose of the revision to G.O. 14.05 was to reduce the 180 days of retention to 30 days of retention. This revision was done based on advice received from the Prosecutor's Office. Chief Frego stated the Police Station is equipped with recording equipment on station, but there was nothing in place that mandated that the Department record situations such as officers taking reports from juveniles, females, etc., in an effort to avoid any allegations of inappropriate behavior. Some discussion ensued. Commissioner Long suggested that Chief Frego speak with the lawyers reference how to prepare the Department for any litigation as it relates to the Department's records retention program. More discussion ensued. Commissioner Hejl made a motion to accept revised General Order 14.05 and the new General Order 14.07 as written. With a motion by Commissioner Farris, the motion carried unanimously (5-0).

## CHIEF'S COMMENTS

Chief Frego reminded the Commission that Officer Richard Kouder is off on Workmen's Compensation due to an injury sustained to his knee. Officer Kouder is currently waiting his doctor's diagnosis and recommendation regarding what procedures may be necessary.

Chief Frego advised the Police Department is in the process of purchasing a K-9 unit for the Police Department from Landheim. Officer Steve Flores will be the Department's new K-9 Officer.

**ANY AND ALL**

There were no matters received under this topic.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no comments received from the public.

**MEETING SCHEDULE**

The next Regular Meeting will be on Monday, April 11, 2005. There will be no Work Study Session held on April 11, 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 Long, 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