

ST. JOHN POLICE COMMISSION

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING ON MAY 9, 2005

The May 2005 Regular Meeting of the Board of Metropolitan Police Commissioners of the Town of St. John was held on May 9, 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 were Police Chief Fred Frego and Town Council Liaison Chuck Pearson. Representing the Law Firm of Austgen, Decker and Phillips PC was Attorney David Austgen. Commissioner Robert Long was out of town on business and was not present at tonight's meeting.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MONTH'S MINUTES

Commissioner Farris made a motion to approve and accept the minutes from the April 11, 2005 Regular Meeting as written. With a second by Commissioner Vale, the motion carried unanimously (4-0).

CORRESPONDENCE / COMMUNICATIONS

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

POLICE DEPARTMENT'S MONTHLY REPORT

Chief Frego read the monthly report for April 2005. Chief Frego stated that from April 1, 2005 through April 30, 2005, the members of the St. John Police Department logged 20,224 duty miles and responded to 298 incidents. The investigation of these incidents resulted in 19 adult arrests with a total of 26 charges, and 3 juvenile arrests with a total of 3 charges. There were 186 traffic citations issued along with 51 written warnings and 0 parking violations. The grand total of citations issued during the month of April 2005 is 237 citations. Also during the month of April, vehicle thefts totaled \$0.00, and all other thefts totaled \$984.00. The total value of recovered property was \$246.00. Regarding grant activity, Chief Frego stated that the officers of the St. John Police Department, while working the OPO / BCC / DUI Taskforce Grants, issued 26 traffic citations and 144 written warnings for a total of 170 citations being issued on the grants during the month of April 2005. The investigation of these violations resulted in 7 adult arrests with 19 charges being filed and 0 juvenile arrests with 0 charges being filed on the grants for the month of April 2005. Chief Frego advised that this month's report is the first report to be generated since we have transferred over to the Spillman System.

OLD BUSINESS

Commissioner Dodaro advised he was in receipt of revised General Order 19.01 – Police Dog. Chief Frego stated that the only change made to this General Order is Item D, Item 1-e, which now states, "K-9 officer will make an announcement that the K-9 unit is on scene and will be entering the building PRIOR to entry." Chief Frego stated the old order did not contain this item, and the intent of such a procedure is to alert the suspect that a K-9 unit is about to come

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in and give him a chance to surrender. Commissioner Farris made a motion to adopt revised General Order 19.01 – Police Dog as written. With a second by Commissioner Hejl, the motion carried unanimously. Just as a point of record, Attorney Austgen advised that the Commission does not have to approve the Chief's report nor general orders.

REPORTS

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

Physical Plant – Chief Frego stated the bids came in for the new facility and they were extremely high. The Town Council is in the process of re-bidding the project. Attorney Austgen advised that this delay would only set back the project 30 – 45 days.

HUMAN RESOURCES

New Officer Update – Officer N. Stamate will graduate from the Academy on Thursday, May 12, 2005. Chief Frego stated he would be attending that graduation.

Reserve Office Applicants Update – Testing and Oral Interviews – Chief Frego advised that out of approximately 24-25 applicants, the oral interview process was down to 12 applicants. The interviews were conducted on May 3 and May 5, 2005. Chief Frego advised that the Department is in the process of forming a list from the results of the testing and interviews.

NEW BUSINESS

There were no items of "New Business" brought before the Commission this evening.

CHIEF'S COMMENTS

Chief Frego advised that Officer S. Flores will complete his K-9 training later this week, and next week he will be involved in certifications.

Chief Frego advised that the Department has purchased two (2) bicycles for the new Bike Patrol Unit. Officer E. Andersen and Officer J. Turturillo will be attending Bike Patrol Training classes later this month. The officers will carry their bikes on the back of their squad cars. It is intended that during their shifts, they will park their squads and then ride the bikes through subdivisions, parks, etc., for approximately 3-4 hours per shift. The Bike Patrol will also be available during the St. John Festival, the Farmers Market, and other summer activities.

ANY AND ALL

Town Councilman C. Pearson advised that at the last Town Council Meeting, residents from the 9300 block of W. Oak Ridge Drive were present to complain about the parking on W. Oak Ridge Drive by individuals who are at Prairie West Park. The majority of persons parked along W. Oak Ridge Drive were there to fish at the pond, and many of them were from out of Town. Further,

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Councilman Pearson stated it appears that similar parking problems are occurring throughout the Town at all of the Town's ponds. Councilman Pearson said he has also received complaints of alcohol consumption and public urination by fishermen. Councilman Pearson stated he has personally observed that parking problem and felt that the fishermen were creating a traffic hazard along side streets in Town such as W. Oak Ridge Drive and Louis Drive. Councilman Pearson stated he is requesting Chief Frego to:

1. Conduct a study of the traffic pattern at these locations on the weekends;
2. Identify folks from out of Town who are fishing, and advise the of the Town's ordinance regarding fishing in Town ponds; and
3. Find a solution for this problem (i.e., posting "No Parking" signs).

Chief Frego stated he was at that particular Town Council meeting, and he recalls that resident volunteering to take a survey of her neighbors to see if they were in favor of posting "No Parking" signs along the east side of W. Oak Ridge Drive. As of today, Chief Frego stated the resident has not provided the results of that survey. Commissioner Hejl felt a solution needed to be found mainly for child safety reasons and suggested that the Town Council could consider posted hours for fishing. Commissioner Dodaro stated he felt this matter that could be addressed by the Police Department's Crime Prevention Officer. Much discussion ensued.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments received from the public.

MEETING SCHEDULE

The next Regular Meeting will be on Monday, June 13, 2005. There will be no Work Study Session held on June 13, 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 Vale made a motion for adjournment. With a second by Commissioner Hejl, 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