

## **ST. JOHN POLICE COMMISSION**

### **MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING ON JUNE 13, 2005**

The June 2005 Regular Meeting of the Board of Metropolitan Police Commissioners of the Town of St. John was held on June 13, 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. Commissioner Robert Long was not present at tonight's meeting. Representation from the law firm of Austgen, Decker and Philips, PC was not required at tonight's meeting.

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

Commissioner Farris made a motion to approve and accept the minutes from the May 9, 2005 Regular Meeting as written. With a second by Commissioner Hejl, the motion carried unanimously (4-0).

### **CORRESPONDENCE / COMMUNICATIONS**

Commissioner Dodaro read a letter addressed to the St. John Police Commission from Police Chief Fred A. Frego. Said letter was dated June 10, 2005, and was regarding a Request to Establish Corporal's Eligibility List. Much discussion ensued, after which the Commission scheduled a Work Study Session for Tuesday, June 21, 2005, at 7:00 P.M. in the St. John Town Hall for the purpose of beginning the process to create a Corporal's Eligibility List. Commissioner Hejl made a motion to begin the proceedings to establish an eligibility list for the Corporal's position. With a second by Commissioner Farris, the motion carried unanimously (4-0).

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

Chief Frego read the monthly report for May 2005. Chief Frego stated that from May 1, 2005 through May 31, 2005, the members of the St. John Police Department logged 20,912 duty miles and responded to 308 incidents. The investigation of these incidents resulted in 14 adult arrests with a total of 24 charges, and 6 juvenile arrests with a total of 11 charges. There were 230 traffic citations issued along with 57 written warnings and 5 parking violations. The grand total of citations issued during the month of May 2005 is 292 citations. Also during the month of May, vehicle thefts totaled \$45,000.00, and all other thefts totaled \$1,250.00. The total value of recovered property was \$45,000.00. Regarding grant activity, Chief Frego stated that the officers of the St. John Police Department, while working the OPO / BCC / DUI Taskforce Grants, issued 45 traffic citations and 48 written warnings for a total of 93 citations being issued on the grants during the month of May 2005. The investigation of these violations resulted in 0 adult arrests with 0 charges being filed and 0 juvenile arrests with 0 charges being filed on the grants for the month of May 2005.

**OLD BUSINESS**

There were no matters of "Old Business."

**REPORTS**

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

**Physical Plant** – Chief Frego advised the Town received no bids for the re-bidding of the project. The Town Council has decided the Town will be its own general contractor.

**HUMAN RESOURCES**

**New Officers Update** – Chief Frego advised that Officers N. Stamate and M. Moffitt are doing well. Officer Moffitt will be returning to the Academy in July.

**Reserve Officers Update** – Chief Frego advised the background checks have just been completed on the top 6 out of 12 applicants that have been selected to become Reserve Officers. One applicant's background investigation did not turn out well, and another applicant just recently was hired full-time by the Hammond Police Department. It is still intended to hire six (6) additional Reserve Officers. Corporal D. Poston is coordinating the training for the new Reserve Officers.

**Bike Patrol Update** – Chief Frego advised that the Department is currently waiting to get the bikes completely equipped (the night lights and the sirens did not come in yet). The officers have completed their training. Whether the night lights are in or not, one of the officers will be out on his bike, along with the ATVs, for the "Movie in the Park" scheduled for dusk on June 18, 2005.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Commissioner Vale stated some of the officers are in need of new vests. Chief Frego advised he was unaware of this situation. Commissioner Vale stated he has spoken to four or five officers who have informed him that their vests are outdated. Chief Frego questioned how he was supposed to take care of the vest situation if he is unaware that officers are in need. Commissioner Vale refused to provide names of the officers who have approached him, but stated he would inform those officers to bring this matter directly to the Chief's attention. Commissioner Vale went on to state that these officers had gone to Corporal D. Demeter, when he was researching the vests, regarding a need for new vests, and they were told they would be able to get new vests. However, supposedly now there is not enough money left to purchase vests. Commissioner Vale asked if this was true. Chief Frego stated the same amount of money is in the fund as there was last year. The fund has not been touched. Chief Frego stated this matter was addressed in front of the Police Commission last year, wherein it was determined that \$500 per officer would be available out of the grant for new vests, and the Town would pay the rest up to \$750 per officer for the purchase of new vests. Some discussion ensued. Commissioner Dodaro stated that those officers who are in need of new vests should

either come before the Commission themselves, or they should put their request in writing to the Chief. More discussion ensued.

**CHIEF'S COMMENTS**

Chief Frego stated he had no comments.

**ANY AND ALL**

There were no matters brought before the Commission of "Any and All" at this time.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Councilman Pearson stated residents of Louis Estates have stated to him they would like to compliment the Police Department on its efforts enforcing the Town's Ordinance regarding fishing in the Town's ponds. They truly appreciate, and were happy to see, the officers asking non-residents who were fishing to leave.

**MEETING SCHEDULE**

The next Regular Meeting will be on Monday, July 11, 2005. There will be no Work Study Session held on July 11, 2005, so the Regular Public Meeting will begin at 7:00 P.M. A Study Session has been scheduled for Tuesday, June 21, 2005 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