

ST. JOHN POLICE COMMISSION

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING ON OCTOBER 10, 2005

The October 2005 Regular Meeting of the Board of Metropolitan Police Commissioners of the Town of St. John was held on October 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, and Rose Hejl. Also present were Police Chief Fred Frego and Town Council Liaison Charles Pearson. Representing the law firm of Austgen, Decker and Philips, PC was Attorney Timothy Kuiper. Commissioners Robert Long and Ronald Vale were 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 September 12, 2005 Regular Meeting as written. With a second by Commissioner Farris, the motion carried unanimously (3-0).

CORRESPONDENCE / COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioner Dodaro read correspondence from Chief Fred Frego dated October 10, 2005. Said letter requested the Board of Metropolitan Police Commissioners submit the next eligible applicant on the Corporal's Eligibility List (posted September 15, 2005 and in effect till September 14, 2007) for promotion. Commissioner Farris made a motion to approve Chief Frego's request and submit the next eligible applicant on the Corporal's Eligibility List for promotion. With a second by Commissioner Hejl, the motion carried unanimously (3-0). Commissioner Dodaro confirmed with Chief Frego that the applicant being submitted for promotion is Officer Jay Dahlin.

POLICE DEPARTMENT'S MONTHLY REPORT

Chief Frego read the monthly report for September 2005. Chief Frego stated that from September 1, 2005 through September 30, 2005, the members of the St. John Police Department logged 20,111 duty miles and responded to 340 incidents. The investigation of these incidents resulted in 13 adult arrests with a total of 18 charges, and 2 juvenile arrests with a total of 4 charges. There were 225 traffic citations issued along with 105 written warnings and 0 parking violations. The grand total of citations issued during the month of September 2005 is 330 citations. Also during the month of September, vehicle thefts totaled \$24,300.00, and all other thefts totaled \$10,322.00. The total value of recovered property was \$7.00. Regarding grant activity, Chief Frego stated that the officers of the St. John Police Department, while working the OPO / BCC / DUI Taskforce Grants, issued 57 traffic citations and 66 written warnings for a total of 123 citations being issued on the grants during the month of September 2005. The investigation of these violations resulted in 6 adult arrests with 13 charges being filed and 1 juvenile arrest with 1 charge being filed on the grants for the month of September 2005.

In response to Commissioner Farris' question regarding an increase in criminal activity in Town, Chief Frego advised there have been several thefts from construction sites throughout Town.

OLD BUSINESS

There were no matters of "Old Business."

REPORTS

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

Physical Plant – Chief Frego mentioned that the new Public Works facility is moving along well. Construction on the current Town Hall has begun as well. Chief Frego advised it appears the construction work is on schedule.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Corporal's Promotion – Commissioner Dodaro stated that the Commission has approved the promotion of Officer Jay Dahlin to the position of Corporal, and the Commission will submit a letter of recommendation to the Town Council. This promotion will be pending the appropriation of the salary for this position.

NEW BUSINESS

There were no items of "New Business" brought forth at tonight's meeting.

CHIEF'S COMMENTS

Chief Frego stated approximately a month ago, and due to the escalating price of gasoline and the Police Department's budget being depleted for the Year 2005, the Police Department temporarily halted off-duty driving of squad cars. Chief Frego stated the officers did not receive this directive very favorably, but they have been dealing with it. In doing so, and if Squad #5 had not been driven to Mississippi for Katrina Relief, the Department would show a reduction of approximately 5,000 miles in the month of September, which calculates to over a \$1,000 savings in fuel costs for the month. Chief Frego stated he hopes to review this matter in January 2006, and he does not wish to take away the benefit of off-duty driving permanently. Commissioner Farris stated he feels the presence of the squad cars on the streets is a benefit to the Town, and he hopes that this is only a temporary situation. It was agreed it is a benefit to the Town only if the officer resides in Town. In reviewing the mileage report for September, Commissioner Dodaro stated he could see that Chief Frego's mileage had dropped. In response to Commissioner Dodaro's question, Chief Frego advised that the off-duty driving restriction was addressed to the patrolmen, but he felt that all officers should try to cut down their off-duty mileage. Chief Frego stated the Budget for Year 2006 contains a substantial increase for fuel, but if fuel costs continue to rise, even the increased amount will not be enough.

ANY AND ALL

There were no matters of "Any and All."

PUBLIC COMMENT

Town Councilman Pearson stated he felt the Open House held on October 2, 2005 was absolutely fabulous. Councilman Pearson stated he would like to thank all the police officers and the firemen for their efforts. He felt it was probably one of the best Open Houses that the Department has had. Further, Officer S. Flores' K-9 demonstration was tremendous.

MEETING SCHEDULE

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

Rose Hejl, Secretary

ATTEST:

Joan M. Kolodziej, Recording Secretary