

## **ST. JOHN POLICE COMMISSION**

### **MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING ON FEBRUARY 13, 2006**

The February 2006 Regular Meeting of the Board of Metropolitan Police Commissioners of the Town of St. John was held on February 13, 2006 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 and Town Council Liaison Charles Pearson were not in attendance that this meeting. Further, tonight's meeting did not require legal representation from the law firm of Austgen, Kuiper and Associates, PC.

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

Commissioner Hejl made a motion to approve and accept the minutes from the January 9, 2006 Regular Meeting as written. With a second by Commissioner Farris, the motion carried unanimously (4-0).

### **ANNUAL TOW MEETING**

Commissioner Dodaro opened the annual tow meeting. All tow firms had representation in the audience. When asked, the tow firms were in agreement that everything is going good, and there were no major issues to be addressed. Mr. Frank Kammer, of Stan's Towing and Recovery Service, stated he did have one issue concerning officer safety that he would like to address; that being a shared unit number between Stan's, the St. John Police Department, and Bi-Town Animal Control. Mr. Kammer explained that Stan's identifies themselves over the radio as Truck 52, while one of St. John's reserve officers is Unit 52, and Bi-Town Animal Control uses "Truck 52" to identify herself. Mr. Kammer advised that Stan's is suggesting that someone change their unit number and further, he stated Stan's would be willing to change their number. Some discussion ensued. Mr. Kammer agreed to contact Chief Frego on Tuesday, February 14, 2006, to determine a new number for Stan's.

Commissioner Dodaro confirmed with Emerald Towing that they did, in fact, have the proper equipment to tow the larger trucks. Mr. Scott Bourrell, of Emerald Towing, advised he brought with him tonight the titles for both of his trucks. Mr. Bourrell advised one of the trucks is currently being refurbished, and it should be back on the road in 2-3 weeks. Commissioner Dodaro reviewed the titles and insurance paperwork that were presented by Mr. Bourrell. The tow firms were thanked for attending tonight's meeting.

### **CORRESPONDENCE / COMMUNICATIONS**

Commissioner Dodaro read a letter from Mr. Chip Lukasik, of Stan's Towing and Recovery Service, addressed to Chief Fred Frego. Said letter was dated February 3, 2006, and advised of a check being forwarded for dog food for K-9 Ork. Further, Mr. Lukasik stated he would not be in attendance at the Annual Tow Meeting, but that Mr. Frank Kammer would be representing Stan's Towing instead. Mr. Lukasik commented that everything is okay, and he felt the St. John Police Department is doing an excellent job under Chief Frego's leadership.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT'S MONTHLY REPORT**

Chief Frego read the monthly report for January 2006. Chief Frego stated that from January 1, 2006 through January 31, 2006, the members of the St. John Police Department logged 19,441 duty miles and responded to 385 incidents. The investigation of these incidents resulted in 21 adult arrests with a total of 30 charges, and 3 juvenile arrests with a total of 4 charges. There were 326 traffic citations issued along with 119 written warnings. The grand total of citations issued during the month of January 2006 is 445 citations. Also during the month of January, vehicle thefts totaled \$24,200.00, and all other thefts totaled \$10,892.00. The total value of recovered property was \$200.00. Regarding grant activity, Chief Frego stated that the officers of the St. John Police Department, while working the OPO / BCC / DUI Taskforce Grants, issued 42 traffic citations and 80 written warnings for a total of 122 citations being issued on the grants during the month of January 2006. The investigation of these violations resulted in 5 adult arrests with 13 charges being filed and 0 juvenile arrests with 0 charges being filed on the grants for the month of January 2006.

Chief Frego advised that normally the Year End Report is available at this time, but with the change over to Spillman during the Year 2005, and trying to combine data from two reporting systems, it is taking a little longer to prepare the report. In response to Commissioner Dodaro's question, Chief Frego advised that everyone appears to be happy with the Spillman system and that it is a much better system than the IPTM Records Management Program the Department had been using. Commissioner Dodaro advised there are a few departments in Illinois that are now going to Spillman as well. Chief Frego said eventually it hoped that we will be able to share data with the Illinois departments. Some discussion ensued.

Chief Frego advised the Department recently signed a contract for eight (8) "air cards" for the laptop computers that are going in the squad cars. The mounts have been installed in all the cars, and the laptop computers are in the station. The air cards will allow the officers to access Spillman from their squad cars and will allow them to do their reports in Spillman while in their squads. IDACS is currently in the process of being switched over from our station to County. Once this is complete, the officers will be able to run driver license inquiries and vehicle registration inquiries from their MDTs.

**OLD BUSINESS**

There were no matters of "Old Business."

**REPORTS**

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

**Physical Plant** – Chief Frego stated the old fire station has been torn down. The bid packs for the new facility will be out within the week. A pre-bid meeting is scheduled for March 2, 2006. If everything goes as planned, construction should start April 1, 2006 on the new Public Safety Facility. The Town Hall is moving out of its current facility on March 1, 2006 and will be temporarily housed in the new Public Works Facility located on Hack Street. Some discussion was held regarding the location of the next Police Commission meeting as the current Town Hall

will be under construction. Chief Frego stated there have been several meetings held recently to finalize the plans for the new facility.

### **HUMAN RESOURCES**

In response to Commissioner Dodaro's question, Chief Frego stated he does not currently have plans to hire an additional officer. Commissioner Dodaro commented that the current Eligibility List is due to expire soon and if the Commission knew when the Chief plans to hire an additional officer, then they would make the necessary arrangements to begin the process of creating a new list so that the list would be available when needed. Chief Frego stated that the Department's budget is not going to allow for an additional officer for some time, especially with the construction of the new public safety building. Chief Frego stated that he did not anticipate hiring until the later part of 2006, and possibly not until sometime in 2007. Commissioner Dodaro stated the Commission would design an application, advertise for applicants, and then hand-out applications prior to the orientation so that they will have an idea of how many applicants will be at the orientation. Commissioner Dodaro also stated he felt they should discuss charging for the application. Some discussion ensued.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Revised G.O. 6.01 – Required Dispatcher's Uniforms & Equipment Issued by Department** - Chief Frego advised General Order 6.01 has been amended due to a change in shirts for the dispatchers. The current shirts worn by dispatchers are very difficult to obtain, so they will now be wearing shirts same as the officer's shirts. Also, the shirts will no longer have an embroidered badge but instead, a regular badge that has been ordered by the Department. Further, dispatchers will now be allowed to wear the BDU style pant, but this would be their option and at their own expense. The new shirts will be purchased by the Department, as this was a change being implemented by the Department.

### **CHIEF'S COMMENTS**

Chief Frego had no comments to make at this time.

### **ANY AND ALL**

There were no comments received under this topic.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no comments received from the public.

**MEETING SCHEDULE**

The next Regular Meeting will be on Monday, March 13, 2006. There will be no Work Study Session held on March 13, 2006, 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 Farris made a motion for adjournment. With a second by Commissioner Vale, 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