

ST. JOHN POLICE COMMISSION

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING ON AUGUST 14, 2006

The August 2006 Regular Meeting of the Board of Metropolitan Police Commissioners of the Town of St. John was held on August 14, 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, Robert Long and Ronald Vale. Also present were Police Chief Fred Frego and Town Council Liaison Charles Pearson. 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 Farris made a motion to approve and accept the minutes from the July 10, 2006 Regular Meeting as written. With a second by Commissioner Vale, the motion carried unanimously (5-0).

CORRESPONDENCE / COMMUNICATIONS

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

POLICE DEPARTMENT'S MONTHLY REPORT

Chief Frego read the monthly report for July 2006. Chief Frego stated that from July 1, 2006 through July 31, 2006, the members of the St. John Police Department logged 23,411 miles and responded to 496 incidents. The investigation of these incidents led to 35 adult arrests with 55 charges being filed and 2 juvenile arrests with 2 charges being filed. There were 252 traffic citations issued along with 64 written warnings for a total of 316 citations being issued during the month of July 2006 by the officers of the St. John Police Department. Also during the month of July, vehicle thefts totaled \$22,000.00, and all other thefts totaled \$7,285.00. The total value of recovered property was \$2,200.00. Regarding grant activity, Chief Frego stated that the officers of the St. John Police Department, while working the OPO / BCC / OSS / DUI Taskforce Grants, issued 119 traffic citations and 86 written warnings for a total of 205 citations being issued on the grants during the month of July 2006. The investigation of these violations resulted in 5 adult arrests with 9 charges being filed and 0 juvenile arrests with 0 charges being filed on the grants for the month of July 2006.

OLD BUSINESS

There were no matters of "Old Business."

REPORTS

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

Physical Plant – Chief Frego advised the Flexicore Company had been on strike, but the strike has come to an end. However, they are now dealing with a backlog of work. The brick layer cannot proceed too much further until the cement floor is installed. Some of the block work has begun. Hopefully, within the next 10-14 days, the Flexicore will be delivered and installed. The contractors will then be able to proceed at a much quicker pace.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Creation of New Eligibility List – Commissioner Dodaro advised he met with Chief Frego, and they have created an Agenda for the Police Officer Hiring Process. Said Agenda is as follows:

AGENDA FOR 2006 POLICE OFFICER HIRING PROCESS	
DATE	EVENT
08-15-06 thru 08-31-06	Application Packets Available at the St. John Clerk's Office Availability: Monday thru Friday, 7:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. Cost per Application Packet: \$30.00
09-15-06	Completed Application Packets are due back to the St. John PD by no later than 5:00 P.M.
09-23-06	Mandatory Orientation Program Time: 10:00 A.M. Promptly – No Late Admittance Where: St. John Town Hall, 10955 W. 93 rd Avenue, St. John
09-30-06	Agility Test Time: 9:00 A.M. Where: To Be Announced
10-07-06	Written Test Time: 9:00 A.M. Where: Lake Central High School, 8400 Wicker Avenue, St. John

Chief Frego stated the written test will be contracted through a firm called "Standard and Associates" out of Chicago, Illinois. Commissioner Dodaro advised this outside agency will be supplying the test for a fee of \$12.50 per test. Chief Frego stated the Commission needs to determine who will be correcting/grading this test; either the Commission or Standard and Associates. Further, Chief Frego advised the test is endorsed by the Indiana Chiefs of Police Association. Several Indiana agencies have used this test in the past. The test bases the probability of the candidate, who is selected and takes this test, successfully completing the Police Academy. The test really has nothing to do with police work and laws. The test is mainly about math, reading comprehension, recognition, and grammar. Commissioner Dodaro stated the Commission will administer this test and will be monitoring the testing of the

applicants. The Commission will determine at a later date as to whether or not they will grade the test. Further, Commissioner Dodaro stated the Agility Test will be handled by the Commission. Some discussion ensued. Commissioner Hejl made a motion to accept the dates as presented on the above listed agenda for the Police Officer Hiring Process and to authorize the contracting of Standard and Associates for the written test. With a second by Commissioner Vale, the motion carried unanimously (5-0).

NEW BUSINESS

New General Order 6.08 – Severe Weather Warning System – Chief Frego advised that approximately a month and a half ago, the Town installed a Severe Weather Warning System, inclusive of sirens, in three (3) locations around Town; namely, the Fire Department's Training Center, Heartland Park and in Schillton Hills. This Warning System is to be activated by the Police Department. The Police Department was given the task of determining when to activate the Severe Weather Warning System. Chief Frego stated he worked with Fire Chief Fred Willman in researching other policies regarding Severe Weather Warning Systems, and they put together the best of what they found, along with some of their own ideas, and created General Order 6.08. Chief Frego stated this policy may need some fine tuning in the future but for now, this is the policy the Police Department will be using. Some discussion ensued. Commissioner Hejl made a motion to approve and adopt General Order 6.08 – Severe Weather Warning System as written. With a second by Commissioner Farris, the motion carried unanimously (5-0).

CHIEF'S COMMENTS

Chief Frego stated he would like to commend the officers on doing a good job at the Police Department. Chief Frego advised the officers have written between 600-700 tickets over the number of tickets that were written in the same timeframe last year. The officers are doing an excellent job at enforcing traffic, which needs to be enforced. Additionally, there was a DUI Roadblock conducted on Saturday, August 5, 2006 in the K-Mart parking lot. Approximately 10 arrests were made through this roadblock. The entire operation went very smoothly, and the officers did a very good job.

Chief Frego advised the Department currently has two (2) officers off work due to injuries. Corporal T. Gardenhire was injured while on duty. Officer J. Turturillo was injured off duty. Their prognoses are yet to be determined. One or both may need to have surgery. This has caused a need for "creative scheduling" in order to keep everything going. Lt. R. Kouder has really pitched in to help cover open shifts by pulling 12-hour shifts. Chief Frego stated the department really needs to get an additional officer hired and on the road as soon as possible. The earliest date that the Department could send an officer to the Police Academy is March 26, 2007. Chief Frego stated he will be reserving a spot in the March 26th class.

ANY AND ALL

Commissioner Hejl commented that she was able to observe the DUI Roadblock that was held at the end of June, 2006. She stated she would like to commend all the officers involved as she thought it was very professional, and everyone worked together very well.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments received from the public.

MEETING SCHEDULE

The next Regular Meeting will be on Monday, September 18, 2006. There will be a Work Study Session only if deemed necessary. The Regular Public Meeting will begin at 7:00 P.M. Any and all Executive Sessions will be advertised pursuant to law.

PRESENTATION OF PLAQUES HONORING 30 YEARS OF SERVICE

Commissioner Vale stated the Commission would like everybody associated with the St. John Police Department, which includes the officers, dispatchers, secretary, and reserve officers, to know how very proud the Commission is of each and every one. They do not often get the opportunity to tell the members this, and it may seem at times that nobody cares, but this is quite the contrary. Tonight, the Commission would like to show their gratitude and appreciation to two (2) officers who have served the Town of St. John with pride and professionalism over an extended period of time, which happens to be 30 years. The two (2) officers being honored this evening are Captain Bernard J. Johnsen and Lieutenant Richard Kouder. Plaques were then presented to both officers recognizing grateful appreciation of 30 years of loyal, dedicated service to the St. John Police Department. Cake and coffee were available after the meeting adjourned.

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

Rose Hejl, Secretary

ATTEST:

Joan M. Kolodziej, Recording Secretary