

ST. JOHN POLICE COMMISSION

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING ON JULY 9, 2007

The July 2007 Regular Meeting of the Board of Metropolitan Police Commissioners of the Town of St. John was held on July 9, 2007 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 Chuck Pearson. Commissioners Robert Long and Ronald Vale were not present. Tonight's meeting did not require legal representation from the law firm of Austgen, Kuiper and Associates, PC.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MONTH'S MINUTES

June 11, 2007 Regular Meeting - Commissioner Farris noted that a correction was needed on Page 2 under the topic "Meeting Schedule." The minutes should read, "The next Regular Meeting will be on Monday, July 9, 2007." Commissioner Farris made a motion to approve and accept the minutes from the June 11, 2007 Regular Meeting, inclusive of the correction previously noted. With a second by Commissioner Hejl, the motion carried unanimously (3-0).

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 June 2007. Chief Frego stated that from June 1, 2007 through June 30, 2007, the members of the St. John Police Department logged 21,656 miles and responded to 550 incidents. The investigation of these incidents led to 32 adult arrests with 49 charges being filed and 5 juvenile arrests with 6 charges being filed. There were 236 traffic citations issued along with 73 written warnings for a total of 309 citations being issued during the month of June 2007 by the officers of the St. John Police Department. Also during the month of June, vehicle thefts totaled \$47,700.00, and all other thefts totaled \$12,078.00. The total value of recovered property was \$49,990.00. Regarding grant activity, Chief Frego stated the officers of the St. John Police Department, while working the OPO / BCC / OSS / DUI Taskforce Grants, issued 64 traffic citations and 75 written warnings for a total of 139 citations being issued on the grants during the month of June 2007. The investigation of these violations resulted in 13 adult arrests with 18 charges being filed and 0 juvenile arrests with 0 charges being filed on the grants for the month of June 2007.

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 Police Department moved into the new facility approximately three (3) weeks ago. Currently, there are just a few little idiosyncrasies discovered in the new station, which are currently being worked on.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Police Officer Hiring Process Update – Chief Frego advised Officer David Oszust graduated from the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy in Plainfield, Indiana on Thursday, July 5, 2007. Officer Shane Adams is scheduled to take his third physical agility evaluation on August 6, 2007, which will be his final attempt at passing the physical agility evaluation

NEW BUSINESS

There were no items of “New Business” brought before the Commission at tonight’s meeting.

CHIEF’S COMMENTS

Chief Frego had no comments this evening.

ANY AND ALL

Commissioner Farris stated he had an opportunity to speak with one of the new officers over the weekend; namely, Officer David Oszust. He congratulated Officer Oszust on his graduation from the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy. He stated Officer Oszust is very happy to be a part of the St. John Police Department. Chief Frego stated Officer Oszust is a good officer who really enjoys the job, and he believes he will do well.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Adrian Bugario, of 11747 W. 90th Avenue, St. John, Indiana, inquired as to whether the Police Commission was in receipt of correspondence from him requesting the firing of certain members of the St. John Police Department. Mr. Bugario stated he believed the letter was sent possibly in April of 2007, as well as on November 12 (year unknown). Mr. Bugario also commented that he put on top of the correspondence a notice for a law suit he was filing against the Town of St. John. Commissioner Dodaro advised Mr. Bugario that he did not follow the proper procedure to file a complaint against an officer or member(s) of the St. John Police Department. Commissioner Dodaro advised that those type of complaints need to be filed at the Police Department. Mr. Bugario advised he has gone to the Police Department five (5) times to obtain the necessary forms and on the last time, Lieutenant Richard Kouder gave him an ultimatum requesting that he vacate the premises. Mr. Bugario went on to cite numerous incidents that have occurred over the past 30 years.

Commissioner Dodaro asked Mr. Bugario if he currently has a lawsuit filed against the Town of St. John, and Mr. Bugario stated yes. Further, Mr. Bugario was asked if there are any court proceedings, either civil or criminal, against him with the Town, and again Mr. Bugario advised yes, there are, and they are based on actions by members of the St. John Town Council. Commissioner Dodaro advised those matters need to be resolved before the Commission can discuss these matters with him. Mr. Bugario continued to bring up matters from the past, and he was repeatedly reminded that the Commission could not discuss any of these situations with him due to the pending lawsuit(s). Some discussion continued with Mr. Bugario. Chief Frego stated for the record the last time Mr. Bugario came to the St. John Police Station for the complaint forms (approximately 3-4 weeks ago); he was given the forms that he requested. Chief Frego stated he has not had contact since that date with Mr. Bugario. Commissioner Dodaro advised Mr. Bugario since he has received the necessary forms, he needs to complete them and file them with the Police Department. Anything else cannot be discussed with Mr. Bugario until the law suits are complete. More discussion ensued. Mr. Bugario was repeatedly told this was not the proper forum to address the matters he was bringing before the Commission tonight.

MEETING SCHEDULE

The next Regular Meeting will be on Monday, August 13, 2007. 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.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Farris 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