

## **ST. JOHN POLICE COMMISSION**

### **MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING ON OCTOBER 13, 2008**

The October 2008 Regular Meeting of the Board of Metropolitan Police Commissioners of the Town of St. John was held on October 13, 2008 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 Chief Fred Frego and Town Council Liaison Jerri Teibel. Commissioners Robert Long and Ronald Vale were unable to be present at this meeting. No legal representation was present at the meeting.

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

**August 11, 2008 Regular Meeting** - Commissioner Hejl made a motion to approve the minutes as written from the August 11, 2008 meeting. With a second by Commissioner Farris, the motion carried unanimously (3-0). There was no regular meeting held in September, 2008.

### **CORRESPONDENCE / COMMUNICATIONS**

There were no items of Correspondence and/or Communications brought before the Commission at tonight's meeting.

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

Chief Frego read the monthly report for September 2008. Chief Frego stated that from September 1, 2008 through September 30, 2008, the members of the St. John Police Department logged 21,578 miles and responded to 557 incidents. The investigation of these incidents led to 26 adult arrests with 40 charges being filed and 3 juvenile arrests with 4 charges being filed. There were 300 traffic citations issued along with 72 written warnings for a total of 372 citations being issued during the month of September 2008 by the officers of the St. John Police Department. Also during the month of September, vehicle thefts totaled \$0.00, and all other thefts totaled \$4,571.00. The total value of recovered property was \$0.00. Chief Frego stated that the St. John Police executed two (2) search warrants during the month of September; both search warrants were narcotics related and issued on information that was developed by the Department's patrol officers while on arrests. Regarding grant activity, the officers of the St. John Police Department, while working the OPO / BCC / OSS / DUI Taskforce Grants, issued 75 traffic citations and 37 written warnings for a total of 112 citations being issued on the grants during the month of September 2008. The investigation of these violations resulted in 1 adult arrest with 1 charge being filed and 0 juvenile arrests with 0 charges being filed on the grants for the month of September 2008.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

There were no matters of "Old Business."

**REPORTS**

**Budget** – Chief Frego advised the 2009 Budget is currently being contemplated by the Town Council.

**Physical Plant** – Chief Frego advised the Department is hosting the Northwestern University's School of Police Staff and Command at the Public Safety Facility. The class started their sixth week today.

**HUMAN RESOURCES**

Commissioner Dodaro stated the Officer's Eligibility List will be expiring in November, and the Commission will address this issue next month.

Regarding the Reserve Officers, Chief Frego advised one of the new reserve officers was involved in an off duty incident and as a result, he was asked to resign. The reserve resigned without further incident.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Commissioner Dodaro advised he had before him for the Commission's approval and adoption revised General Order 3.08 – Juvenile Arrest Process on Station. Chief Frego stated the Department's old policy did not reflect that a Status Offender and a Delinquent Child could not be held in a secure setting. A Status Offender is any person under 18 years of age who commits a crime that would not be a crime if he was an adult (truancy, runaway, possession of alcohol, etc.). Chief Frego advised that every year the Department has to send documentation away regarding our policy on lock-up procedures along with a copy of the Department's General Order. In the past and while in the old station, the Department did get cited for not having the proper facilities to contain Status Offenders. This policy contains "Definitions" for Status Offender, Delinquent Child, Secure Custody, and Non-Secure Custody, which were not included in the old policy. Other than the Definitions, the policy remained the same. Commissioner Hejl made a motion to approved revised General Order 3.08 – Juvenile Arrest Process on Station as presented. With a second by Commissioner Farris, the motion carried unanimously (3-0).

Also presented tonight for the Commission's approval and adoption was a revised St. John Police Department Organization Chart. On the revised chart, Commander Michael Fryzel is now in charge of Operations, which includes Patrol and Investigations. Also, the Department has a new detective, Corporal Jay Dahlin, who will be working with Captain Bernard Johnsen in Investigations. Commissioner Farris made a motion to approve and adopt the revised St. John Police Department Organization Chart as presented. With a second by Commissioner Hejl, the motion carried unanimously (3-0).

**Subdivisions Without Reflective Street Signs** – Chief Dodaro stated it was his understanding there have been some complaints regarding this topic. Chief Frego stated he has not received any complaints from the general public, but he believes that some of the officers have brought the matter to his attention, and he has addressed this matter with Town Manager Steve Kil and Public Works Director Robert Pharazyn. Basically, this is a matter that

“slipped through the cracks.” Town Council Liaison Jerri Teibel stated she addressed this matter at a Town Council meeting, and both Police Chief Frego and Fire Chief Willman were made aware of this situation, as well as it was documented in the minutes of that meeting. Mrs. Teibel advised she does not believe they can change the existing signs because it creates a hardship but in the future, the signs will be reflective. The signs are the responsibility of the developers, not the Town. Mrs. Teibel advised the Town will author an ordinance for this purpose, and this matter will be a requirement the developer will have to follow, which will be addressed during the Planning Commission stages. Some discussion ensued.

### **CHIEF’S COMMENTS**

Chief Frego had no comments to make at this time.

### **ANY AND ALL**

Town Council Liaison Jerri Teibel stated she sent letter to the St. John Police Department, which she copied the Police Commission on, advising how pleased she was with the officers who handled a situation that she was personally involved in. The officers were very comforting, calming, and it could not have been better than if her own family were taking care of her.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Ms. Janet Brennan, of 10151 Delmar Street, St. John, Indiana, advised she was present tonight in order to ask for guidance on where she can get information on filing a complaint against an officer. Ms. Brennan stated she spoke with Chief Frego over the weekend, and she was in the police station today speaking to the Commander (Chapranda) about the matter. She stated she felt like she was being dissuaded because it was pointed out to her that the officer could sue her if her complaint was not termed properly. She stated she was looking for statute guidance or information as to what are viable terms that can be used in filing a complaint. Commissioner Dodaro advised Ms. Brennan she needed to go to the police station and complete the appropriate form at the police station. Ms. Brennan stated she was at the police station today and saw the appropriate form, but she was wanting the guidelines for what the complaints can be based on, because in meeting with the Commander today at the police station, that is where she felt dissuaded, and even intimidated, to not file a complaint. Again, Commissioner Dodaro advised Ms. Brennan to put her complaint in writing on the official complaint form, and then the complaint will be investigated. Ms. Brennan then asked if there was a specific statute that she could look up that shows what is considered a valid complaint regarding abuse of power or misuse of position. Ms. Brennan stated she would like to look at the viable options before she filled out the official complaint form to make sure that what she is saying conforms to what it is. Much discussion ensued. Ms. Brennan stated she would keep looking for information regarding how to file a complaint.

**MEETING SCHEDULE**

The next Regular Meeting will be on Monday, November 10, 2008. 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

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Rose Hejl, Secretary

ATTEST:

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Joan M. Kolodziej, Recording Secretary