

ST. JOHN POLICE COMMISSION

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING ON DECEMBER 8, 2008

The December 2008 Regular Meeting of the Board of Metropolitan Police Commissioners of the Town of St. John was held on December 8, 2008 at 7:00 P.M., as advertised, pursuant to law. Commissioner Dodaro called the meeting to order at 7:02 P.M. 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 Chief Fred Frego. Councilman Robert Long and Town Council Liaison Jerri Teibel were not present. No legal representation was present at the meeting.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MONTH'S MINUTES

November 10, 2008 Regular Meeting and November 18, 2008 Special Meeting - Commissioner Hejl made a motion to approve the minutes as written from the November 10, 2008 Regular Meeting and the November 18, 2008 Special Meeting. With a second by Commissioner Farris, the motion carried unanimously (4-0).

CORRESPONDENCE / COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioner Dodaro advised the Commission and Police Department had received a "Thank You" note from the Thomas J. Ryan Family. Mr. Ryan, who lived in town and who also had a business in town, passed away in November prior to Thanksgiving, and the card was thanking the Police Department for their compassion and professionalism.

Commissioner Dodaro stated Chief Frego and the Members of the Police Commission received correspondence dated December 1, 2008 from Leep's Highway Garage. Commissioner Dodaro read said correspondence, which advised of Leep's Highway Garage's interest in being added to the St. John Police Department's towing roster. The Commission stated they would invite Leep's to attend the Annual Tow Meeting held at the Commission's meeting in February. Chief Frego stated he would check into whether Leep's currently tows for any other towns. Commissioner Dodaro stated he would like the Town Council made aware of this request.

POLICE DEPARTMENT'S MONTHLY REPORT

Chief Frego read the monthly report for November 2008. Chief Frego stated that from November 1, 2008 through November 30, 2008, the members of the St. John Police Department logged 18,069 miles and responded to 473 incidents. The investigation of these incidents led to 24 adult arrests with 31 charges being filed, and 0 juvenile arrests with 0 charges being filed. There were 178 traffic citations issued along with 80 written warnings for a total of 258 citations being issued during the month of November 2008 by the officers of the St. John Police Department. Also during the month of November, vehicle thefts totaled \$0.00, and all other thefts totaled \$5,500.00. The total value of recovered property was \$0.00. Regarding grant activity, the officers of the St. John Police Department, while working the OPO / BCC / OSS / DUI Taskforce Grants, issued 79 traffic citations and 64 written warnings for a total of 143 citations being issued on the grants during the month of November 2008. The

investigation of these violations resulted in 9 adult arrests with 17 charges being filed and 0 juvenile arrests with 0 charges being filed on the grants for the month of November 2008.

OLD BUSINESS

Revised G.O. #17.01 – Overtime / Compensatory Time / Personal Days – Commissioner Dodaro confirmed that the commissioners had received the revised General Order #17.01, and he asked if there were any questions or comments. In response to Commissioner Farris' comment, Chief Frego explained Item No. 4, under Procedure A, Overtime or Compensatory Time. Chief Frego stated by increasing the bank of compensatory time hours to 48, it would provide added flexibility to the Officers' Schedule. Some discussion ensued, and it was determined that the word "accrued" should be added to Item No. 4, wherein it will now read as follows: Any accrued overtime or compensatory time may be assigned to the officer by a supervisor." Commissioner Farris then made a motion to approve and adopt revised General Order #17.01 – Overtime / Compensatory Time / Personal Days as modified above. With a second by Commissioner Hejl, the motion carried unanimously (4-0).

REPORTS

Budget – There was nothing new to report on the budget.

Physical Plant – Chief Frego advised there are some heating issues going on at the new facility, which are currently being looked into.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Commissioner Dodaro advised that the Commissioners who are present this evening signed the revised Officer's Eligibility List that was extended for an additional six months at last month's meeting. The new expiration date is May 29, 2009.

NEW BUSINESS

Revised G.O. #19.03 – Patrol (Towing) – Chief Frego advised the only change in this general order is pursuant to a recent Appellate Court case wherein a police department lost a case due to opening locked containers in a vehicle wherein they found contraband. The Appellate Court ruled that the inventory/search policy of that particular department was not specific enough. This general order has been revised to include the opening of closed and/or locked containers (Section III. Procedure, Item B, Numbers 1 thru 4). Some discussion ensued, Commissioner Hejl, motion to approved revised General Order #19.03 as presented. With a second by Commissioner Vale, the motion carried unanimously (4-0).

Regarding the request from Leep's Highway Garage, Commissioner Dodaro asked that the Commission members be provided with the directive (ordinance) that establishes the Police Department's Tow Policy.

CHIEF'S COMMENTS

Chief Frego advised that the two (2) squad cars replacing totaled Squads #8 and #13 have been ordered as of last week. The vendor has promised a more timely delivery date than the last order. Hopefully by the end of December, all four (4) new squads will be ready and on the road. Currently, the department has been utilizing creative scheduling in order to provide squad cars for the officers.

ANY AND ALL

There were no items brought before the Commission at this time.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments made at this time.

MEETING SCHEDULE

The next Regular Meeting will be on Monday, January 12, 2009. 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 Vale made a motion for adjournment. With a second by Commissioner Farris, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:15 P.M.

Town of St. John, Lake County
Indiana, Board of Metropolitan
Police Commissioners

Rose Hejl, Secretary

ATTEST:

Joan M. Kolodziej, Recording Secretary