

ST. JOHN POLICE COMMISSION

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING ON FEBRUARY 9, 2009

The February 2009 Regular Meeting of the Board of Metropolitan Police Commissioners of the Town of St. John was held on February 9, 2009 at 7:00 P.M., as advertised, pursuant to law. Commissioner Dodaro called the meeting to order at 7:00 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, Rose Hejl, Robert Long, and Ronald Vale. Also present was Chief Fred Frego. Councilman Donald Farris and Town Council Liaison Jerri Teibel were not present. No legal representation was present at the meeting.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MONTH'S MINUTES

December 8, 2008 Regular Meeting - Commissioner Hejl made a motion to approve the minutes as written from the December 8, 2008 Regular Meeting. With a second by Commissioner Long, the motion carried unanimously (4-0).

ANNUAL TOW MEETING

Representatives from the following tow firms were present at tonight's Annual Tow Meeting: St. John Auto, Stan's Towing, Emerald Towing, Kubiak's Service and Leep's Highway Garage. There was no representative present from Dave's Towing. The representatives advised they had no complaints, comments, concerns, or suggestions regarding the present arrangements. Chief Frego advised he had no knowledge of any problems regarding any of the tow firms or the current tow rotation process. Commissioner Dodaro advised the representatives to obtain a copy of the Town Ordinance and regarding Section 3 of said ordinance, Commissioner Dodaro stated the fee assessment for tow services shall be evaluated by the Board of Metropolitan Police Commissioners on a regular basis. Commissioner Dodaro asked the representatives present to provide Chief Frego, at their convenience, with a listing of their current fee assessment to be reviewed and retained by the Police Commission. Commissioner Dodaro asked Mr. Nick Leep, of Leep's Highway Garage who was seeking to be added to the tow rotation for the Town of St. John, to stay until the end of the meeting as he and Chief Frego would like to speak with him regarding his request. The Commission thanked the representatives for their attendance and for the fine job they do throughout the year. Upon leaving the meeting, Joe Kubiak, of Kubiak's Service, requested to be notified should the Commission decide to add additional tow providers to the tow rotation. Commissioner Dodaro stated that all tow providers would be notified of any changes in the event that changes are made.

2008 YEAR-END REPORT

Commissioner Vale stated it was a very excellent report. Chief Frego stated it would be even better next year as the Department is constantly fine-tuning its reporting procedures. Commissioner Dodaro stated it was a very nice report.

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 January 2009. Chief Frego stated that from January 1, 2009 through January 31, 2009, the members of the St. John Police Department logged 18,161 miles and responded to 490 incidents. The investigation of these incidents led to 23 adult arrests with 33 charges being filed, and 0 juvenile arrests with 0 charges being filed. There were 145 traffic citations issued along with 61 written warnings for a total of 206 citations being issued during the month of January 2009 by the officers of the St. John Police Department. Also during the month of January, vehicle thefts totaled \$5,500.00, and all other thefts totaled \$5,069.00. The total value of recovered property was \$5,750.00. Regarding grant activity, the officers of the St. John Police Department, while working the OPO / BCC / OSS / DUI Taskforce Grants, issued 21 traffic citations and 13 written warnings for a total of 34 citations being issued on the grants during the month of January 2009. The investigation of these violations resulted in 4 adult arrests with 4 charges being filed and 0 juvenile arrests with 0 charges being filed on the grants for the month of January 2009.

OLD BUSINESS

There were no items of "Old Business."

REPORTS

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

Physical Plant – Chief Frego advised there was nothing new to report on the physical plant.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Reserve Officer Applicants – Chief Frego stated in light of the current budget constraints, he did not feel the Department would be pursuing additional officers for the Reserve Officer Program.

Commissioner Dodaro brought to the Commission's attention the fact that two (2) St. John police officers have entered into the DROP Program, and they have indicated they may retire at the end of 2010. Chief Frego advised the two (2) officers will have the option of retiring December 31, 2010, but they also have the option not to retire at that time. Commissioner Dodaro stated the Commission will need to consider making some changes in the next couple of years. Some discussion ensued.

NEW BUSINESS

There were no matters of "New Business."

CHIEF'S COMMENTS

Chief Frego had no comments.

ANY AND ALL

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

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Nick Leep, of Leep's Highway Garage, stated Leep's Highway Garage was interested in becoming a tow provider for the Town of St. John. Commissioner Dodaro stated for the record, he has had a lot of personal experience with Nick Leep and Leep's Highway Garage, and he has always felt that he was an "up front" and honest kind of guy, and it is nice to have a credible business man in the area that they could count on.

MEETING SCHEDULE

The next Regular Meeting will be on Monday, March 9, 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 Hejl, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:20 P.M.

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

Rose Hejl, Secretary

ATTEST:

Joan M. Kolodziej, Recording Secretary