

ST. JOHN POLICE COMMISSION

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING ON APRIL 13, 2009

The April 2009 Regular Meeting of the Board of Metropolitan Police Commissioners of the Town of St. John was held on April 13, 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, Donald Farris, Rose Hejl, and Ronald Vale. Also present was Chief Fred Frego. Commissioner Robert Long arrived at approximately 7:09 P.M., shortly after the start of the meeting. Town Council Liaison Jerri Teibel was not present. No legal representation was present at the meeting.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MONTH'S MINUTES

February 9, 2009 Regular Meeting - Commissioner Hejl made a motion to approve the minutes as written from the February 9, 2009 Regular Meeting. With a second by Commissioner Long, the motion carried unanimously (4-0). There was no meeting held in March 2009 due to a lack of a quorum.

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 March 2009. Chief Frego stated that from March 1, 2009 through March 31, 2009, the members of the St. John Police Department logged 20,722 miles and responded to 555 incidents. The investigation of these incidents led to 40 adult arrests with 53 charges being filed, and 8 juvenile arrests with 9 charges being filed. There were 323 traffic citations issued along with 152 written warnings for a total of 475 citations being issued during the month of March 2009 by the officers of the St. John Police Department. Also during the month of March, vehicle thefts totaled \$0.00, and all other thefts totaled \$3,500.00. 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 64 traffic citations and 33 written warnings for a total of 97 citations being issued on the grants during the month of March 2009. The investigation of these violations resulted in 5 adult arrests with 14 charges being filed and 1 juvenile arrest with 1 charge being filed on the grants for the month of March 2009.

Chief Frego commented that a new report has been added to the Chief's Monthly Report which advises the number of 511 citations issued by officer for the month as well as their year-to-date total, and the number of Infraction Deferral Agreements entered into for the current month as well as the year-to-date total. Chief Frego explained that the Infraction Deferral Program replaced the St. John Driver Education Program, which had been deemed illegal, and this program is much better as there are no personnel involved in it.

OLD BUSINESS

There were no items of "Old Business."

REPORTS

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

Physical Plant – There was nothing new to report on the physical plant.

HUMAN RESOURCES

In response to his question, Commissioner Farris was advised that the current Final Register of Police Officer Candidates (Eligibility List) will expire on May 29, 2009.

NEW BUSINESS

Revised Job Description – Detective /Captain, Revised G.O. No. 20.01 – Performance Evaluations, and New Performance Evaluation Forms for Supervisor, Patrol Officer and Dispatcher – Chief Frego advised the only change made in the Job Description – Detective / Captain is that this position is no longer second in command. Commissioner Hejl then made a motion to adopt the revised Job Description – Detective / Captain as presented. With a second by Commissioner Farris, the motion carried unanimously (4-0).

Chief Frego advised that revised General Order No. 20.01 – Performance Evaluations explains the dynamics of who is going to evaluate who, and the Performance Evaluation Forms are new. Some discussion ensued. Commissioner Hejl made a motion to approve and adopt revised General Order No. 20.01 – Performance Evaluations and the three (3) new Performance Evaluation Forms (Supervisor, Patrol Officer and Dispatcher) as presented. With a second by Commissioner Farris, the motion carried unanimously (4-0).

CHIEF'S COMMENTS

Chief Frego advised the Commission the Department has submitted grant paperwork for the Stimulus Grant being offered by President Obama, which provides for the hiring of up to three (3) officers. The Department has put in for two (2) officers. If the grant is awarded, the successful department will receive full pay and benefits for the officers for a period of three (3) years. Chief Frego stated he has spoken with several different individuals who advise small departments, like St. John, will have a difficult time in getting the grant awarded to them as the focus is on high crime areas. It is anticipated that the grant will provide approximately 5000 police officers across the country. Notification of the grant award is expected in May 2009. Some discussion ensued. In response to Commissioner Dodaro's question, Chief Frego stated he wrote the grant paperwork, along with Corporal James Turturillo.

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Chief Frego stated he was advised by Congressman Pete Visclosky's office that the papers have been signed for the \$450,000 that will be coming to the Tri-Town Area (Dyer, Schererville and St. John). Those monies will be divided three (3) ways, and they are to be used towards Communications.

ANY AND ALL

Commissioner Dodaro stated he would like to discuss at the next meeting a timetable as to when the Commission would like to start the testing process to establish a new Eligibility List for Patrol Officer. Commissioner Dodaro stated he would like to have a new list in place by November 2009. Chief Frego stated if St. John is successful in being awarded the grant to hire two (2) new officers in May, the money will be available by July, so they may need to have something in place sooner than November, unless it is decided to do an emergency hire.

Commissioner Long stated he would like to discuss at a later meeting something that the Police Commission could do for the community, possibly after the summer months have passed. Commissioner Long stated he was not sure what could be done, but he would like something in addition to the National Night Out and the Open House, possibly something for people who are in need, or something for elderly people or sick children. Commissioner Long stated he would like it to be something where the Commissioners give their time and something back to the community.

Chief Frego stated the Department will be hosting a second National Night Out on Tuesday, August 4, 2009. Also, in early 2010, the Department hopes to be involved in hosting a Police Academy for citizens. Chief Frego stated there would be a general overview of the law, ride-alongs for four (4) hours, K-9 demonstrations, discussion of police activity in the community, etc.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no individuals present in the audience.

MEETING SCHEDULE

The next Regular Meeting will be on Monday, May 11, 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. Chief Frego stated he would advise the Commission if there would be a need for an Executive Session.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Hejl made a motion for adjournment. With a second by Commissioner Farris, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:22 P.M.

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

Rose Hejl, Secretary

ATTEST:

Joan M. Kolodziej, Recording Secretary