

ST. JOHN POLICE COMMISSION

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING ON MAY 11, 2009

The May 2009 Regular Meeting of the Board of Metropolitan Police Commissioners of the Town of St. John was held on May 11, 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, and Rose Hejl. Also present were Chief Fred Frego and Attorney David Austgen. Commissioner Robert Long, Commissioner Ronald Vale and Town Council Liaison Jerri Teibel were not present.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MONTH'S MINUTES

April 13, 2009 Regular Meeting - Commissioner Hejl made a motion to approve the minutes as written from the April 13, 2009 Regular Meeting. With a second by Commissioner Farris, 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 April 2009. Chief Frego stated that from April 1, 2009 through April 30, 2009, the members of the St. John Police Department logged 21,078 miles and responded to 514 incidents. The investigation of these incidents led to 43 adult arrests with 57 charges being filed, and 4 juvenile arrests with 8 charges being filed. There were 309 traffic citations issued along with 131 written warnings for a total of 440 citations being issued during the month of April 2009 by the officers of the St. John Police Department. Also during the month of April, vehicle thefts totaled \$0.00, and all other thefts totaled \$8,441.00. The total value of recovered property was \$1,195.00. Regarding grant activity, the officers of the St. John Police Department, while working the OPO / BCC / OSS / DUI Taskforce Grants, issued 54 traffic citations and 40 written warnings for a total of 94 citations being issued on the grants during the month of April 2009. The investigation of these violations resulted in 0 adult arrests with 0 charges being filed and 0 juvenile arrests with 0 charges being filed on the grants for the month of April, 2009.

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

Commissioner Dodaro stated the Commission discussed at last month's meeting the Eligibility List for Patrol Officer. He further stated this matter would be set aside until next month.

NEW BUSINESS

Police Personnel Matters (Chief F. Frego) – Commissioner Dodaro stated he had before him tonight an order from Chief Fred Frego recommending disciplinary action on Captain Bernard Johnsen. The recommended disciplinary action is as follows:

- Bernard Johnsen shall be demoted from the rank of Captain to the merit rank of Sergeant;
- Bernard Johnsen shall be suspended without pay for 30 calendar days. This suspension will commence and end as determined by the Chief of Police; and
- Bernard Johnsen will comply with any employee assistance program as approved by the Chief of Police.

Commissioner Hejl made a motion to approve the disciplinary action recommended by Chief Fred Frego regarding Captain Bernard Johnsen as written. With a second by Commissioner Farris, the motion carried unanimously (3-0). Chief Frego thanked the Commission for their time and consideration in this matter.

CHIEF'S COMMENTS

Chief Frego had no comments to make at this time.

ANY AND ALL

There were no matters brought up under "Any and All."

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Adrian Bugariu, of 11747 W. 90th Avenue, St. John, Indiana, advised he has been a resident of St. John for over 30 years, and he has been terrorized by the St. John Police Department for a long, long time. Mr. Bugariu continued by stating he knew Bernie Johnsen since the year before Bernie came to the St. John Police Department. Mr. Bugariu then stated he wanted to know the reason why Bernie Johnsen was disciplined. Some discussion began, and Attorney Austgen advised the Commission not to talk about personnel matters here in this public meeting, on this public record, and regarding one of the Department's police officers who was an individual under their jurisdictional authority. Commissioner Dodaro advised Mr. Bugariu the

matter regarding Bernie Johnsen was a personnel issue, and it would not be discussed with him. Mr. Bugariu then began discussing issues he has with the St. John Police Department dating back over a period of 30 years, plus his issues with Chief Fred Frego, and his problems with Town Council Members Michael Fryzel and Jerri Teibel. Bugariu was repeatedly advised this was not the forum to address those matters, and he should complete the necessary Citizen/Officer Complaint Form at the St. John Police Department to have those complaints addressed. Commissioner Dodaro closed the floor for Public Comment.

MEETING SCHEDULE

The next Regular Meeting will be on Monday, June 8, 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 Hejl made a motion for adjournment. With a second by Commissioner Farris, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:08 P.M.

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

Rose Hejl, Secretary

ATTEST:

Joan M. Kolodziej, Recording Secretary