

ST. JOHN POLICE COMMISSION

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING ON JULY 13, 2009

The July 2009 Regular Meeting of the Board of Metropolitan Police Commissioners of the Town of St. John was held on July 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 Robert Long. Also present were Chief Fred Frego and Attorney Timothy Kuiper. Commissioner Ronald Vale and Town Council Liaison Jerri Teibel were not present.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MONTH'S MINUTES

May 11, 2009 Regular Meeting - Commissioner Hejl made a motion to approve the minutes as written from the May 11, 2009 Regular Meeting. With a second by Commissioner Farris, the motion carried unanimously (4-0).

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 June 2009. Chief Frego stated that from June 1, 2009 through June 30, 2009, the members of the St. John Police Department logged 19,843 miles and responded to 645 incidents. The investigation of these incidents led to 26 adult arrests with 33 charges being filed, and 4 juvenile arrests with 6 charges being filed. There were 269 traffic citations issued along with 77 written warnings for a total of 346 citations being issued during the month of June 2009 by the officers of the St. John Police Department. Also during the month of June, vehicle thefts totaled \$6,000.00, and all other thefts totaled \$5,637.00. The total value of recovered property was \$6,000.00. Regarding grant activity, the officers of the St. John Police Department, while working the OPO / BCC / OSS / DUI Taskforce Grants, issued 67 traffic citations and 47 written warnings for a total of 114 citations being issued on the grants during the month of June 2009. The investigation of these violations resulted in 4 adult arrests with 5 charges being filed and 0 juvenile arrests with 0 charges being filed on the grants for the month of June, 2009.

OLD BUSINESS

Police Officer Eligibility List – Commissioner Dodaro stated the Department's Police Officer Eligibility List has expired. In response to Commissioner Dodaro's question regarding the grant application for monies to hire up to three (3) police officers, Chief Frego advised the award from that particular Grant will be announced sometime in late September, 2009. Chief Frego felt that the larger departments, like Toledo, Ohio which laid off 125 police officers, will be more likely to be the recipient of the award. It is felt the focus of the award will be to the larger cities who have laid off police officers because they would like to get those departments back to

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full strength. Chief Frego stated he is not overly optimistic that the St. John Police Department will be successful in receiving an award from this grant. Chief Frego stated he would like to have an Eligibility List in place by early Fall 2009. Much discussion ensued. Commissioner Hejl made a motion to start the process for creating a Police Officer Eligibility List by:

1. Advertising in local newspapers on Sunday, August 2, 2009 and Sunday, August 9, 2009, that the St. John Police Department will be accepting Police Officer Applications beginning Monday, August 3, 2009 thru the close of business (4:30 P.M.) on Friday, August 14, 2009; and
2. Applications will be available at the St. John Clerk's Office from August 3, 2009 through August 14, 2009 at 4:30 P.M.; and
3. All applications must be completed and turned in to the St. John Police Department by Friday, September 4, 2009 at 4:30 P.M.; and
4. Applications will be available for a fee of \$25.00; and
5. The Mandatory Orientation for all Police Officer Applicants will be held on Saturday, September 19, 2009 at 9:00 A.M.

With a second by Commissioner Long, the motion carried unanimously (4-0). In response to Chief Frego's question, Commissioner Hejl made a motion to retain the services of the same testing company as was used during the last application process, that being the Standard Testing Company from Chicago, IL. With a second by Commissioner Long, the motion carried unanimously (4-0).

REPORTS

Budget – Chief Frego advised the Town held a Preliminary Budget Meeting last Friday, and the figures are not out yet as to where the Town will be in 2010. However, it appears that the Town will be operating on the same budget numbers as in 2009.

HUMAN RESOURCES

There were no other matters to discuss under this topic than the Police Officer Eligibility List, which was already discussed at tonight's meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Revised St. John Police Department Organization Chart – Commissioner Dodaro stated he had before him tonight a revised St. John Police Department Organization Chart. The only change on this chart is the reassignment of Sergeant Bernard Johnsen to the direction and supervision of the Services Division Commander. Commissioner Hejl made a motion to accept the revised St. John Police Department Organization Chart as presented. With a second by Commissioner Farris, the motion carried unanimously (4-0).

CHIEF'S COMMENTS

Chief Frego reminded the Commission that Tuesday, August 4, 2009, from 7 PM to 9 PM, the St. John Police Department will be hosting the 2009 National Night Out at the Prairie West Park, and he hoped that all Commissioners could be in attendance for this event.

Chief Frego advised that Corporal James Turturillo will be attending the Annual Indiana D.A.R.E. Officers State Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana on August 6 & 7, 2009. This conference is mandatory and through his attendance, Corporal Turturillo will become certified in the upgrades that have been made to the program.

Chief Frego asked for the Commission's approval to attend the Chiefs of Police Association's Annual Fall Conference to be held in Indianapolis, IN in the Fall. Chief Frego stated this is a good conference, and it lasts only a day and a half. The Commission advised Chief Frego he could attend this conference.

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, stated he wished to discuss the behavior of (Commander) Mike Fryzel in 2005. Attorney Kuiper advised Mr. Bugariu that his matter has already been submitted and dealt with. Attorney Kuiper also stated that they have received several torte claim notices from Mr. Bugariu, and these matters are pending and ongoing litigation with him (Adrian Bugariu) on several matters. Mr. Bugariu continued by stating he believes the Town Council and the Police Commission did not receive any of his information because Mike Fryzel and Jerri Teibel tossed the paperwork into the garbage. Attorney Kuiper again advised that the paperwork has been received.

Mr. Matt Shirley, of 10024 Hedwig, stated that since Hedwig Drive was opened up to Bull Run Drive, he has a real hard time backing out of his driveway due to a blind spot in that area and the speeding vehicles now going down Hedwig Drive. He stated some of the vehicles driving through that area are going over 50 miles per hour. Mr. Shirley suggested that a stop sign or a speed bump be installed at this location to slow the traffic down. Chief Frego advised the Commission that he has spoken with Mr. Shirley and his neighbors regarding the speeding vehicles on Hedwig Drive now that it has been opened. Chief Frego stated the Department has had traffic enforcement at that location, and the speed sign was located out there for a while. Chief Frego stated he just received a report today from the traffic counter that was located out there for a couple of days, which gave the Department the ability to monitor the traffic flow in that location. Chief Frego stated the computer printout is a very interesting report, which provides dates, times, number of vehicles, vehicle speed from 0-75 mph, etc. In reviewing this report, it does reflect there is a problem on Hedwig Drive. Chief Frego stated he does not know if a stop sign will stop this problem. He felt it is more of an enforcement problem, and the officers have been writing tickets at this location. Chief Frego stated they now have a better idea of the times and direction of travel that seems to be the problem. It appears there are more vehicles speeding northbound between 4 P.M. and 5:30 P.M., and that is when the St.

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John Police Department will be targeting their enforcement. The report reflected that 92% of the vehicles were obeying the speed limit, but 8% were not, and they are the ones causing the problem. More discussion ensued. Mrs. Huzar, who was also present, stated they cannot get out of their driveway because they cannot see at all. Chief Frego invited Mrs. Huzar and Mr. Shirley to make an appointment with him, and he would share the information provided by the traffic study that was performed. More discussion ensued. Chief Frego advised the residents that the Department would be helping them out with this problem with both enforcement and possibly a stop sign, at a location yet to be determined.

Mr. Bugariu stated his subdivision is having the same problem with speeding vehicles on W. 90th Avenue going westbound to Knickerbocker. Mr. Bugariu continued by commenting that (Commander) Fryzel is one of the biggest offenders. Commissioner Dodaro advised Mr. Bugariu there is litigation between him (Bugariu) and the Town involving Commander Fryzel, and this line of comments could not continue. Attorney Kuiper advised Mr. Bugariu that he (Bugariu) has already picked his forum by choosing the tort claim notice, and by filing litigation. Further, Attorney Kuiper stated to Mr. Bugariu's that his first comments (regarding speeding vehicles on W. 90th Avenue) were appropriate. However, the rest of his comments fall under the issues that has pending litigation.

MEETING SCHEDULE

The next Regular Meeting will be on Monday, August 10, 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 Long, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:30 P.M.

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

Rose Hejl, Secretary

ATTEST:

Joan M. Kolodziej, Recording Secretary