

ST. JOHN POLICE COMMISSION

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING JANUARY 11, 2010

The January 2010 Regular Meeting of the Board of Metropolitan Police Commissioners of the Town of St. John was held on January 11, 2010 at 7:00 P.M., as advertised, pursuant to law. Commissioner Dodaro called the meeting to order promptly 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, and Ronald Vale. Also present were Chief Fred Frego and Town Council Member Jerri Teibel. Commissioners Donald Farris and Robert Long were not present. No legal representation was present at the meeting.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MONTH'S MINUTES

December 14, 2009 Regular Meeting - Commissioner Hejl made a motion to approve the minutes as written from the December 14, 2009 Regular Meeting. With a second by Commissioner Vale, the motion carried unanimously (3-0).

CORRESPONDENCE / COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioner Hejl read a letter addressed to the St. John Police Commission from Police Officer Applicant Juan J. Moreno. Said letter thanked the Commission for the opportunity of being interviewed on December 5, 2009 for the position of Patrol Officer and reiterated Mr. Moreno's desire to become a St. John Police Officer.

POLICE DEPARTMENT'S MONTHLY REPORT

Chief Frego read the monthly report for December 2009. Chief Frego stated that from December 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009, the members of the St. John Police Department logged 17,095 miles and responded to 473 incidents. The investigation of these incidents led to 12 adult arrests with 18 charges being filed, and 4 juvenile arrests with 4 charges being filed. There were 84 traffic citations issued along with 52 written warnings for a total of 136 citations being issued during the month of December 2009 by the officers of the St. John Police Department. Also during the month of December, vehicle thefts totaled \$25,000.00, and all other thefts totaled \$190.00. The total value of recovered property was \$25,000.00. Regarding grant activity, the officers of the St. John Police Department, while working the OPO / BCC / OSS / DUI Taskforce Grants, issued 8 traffic citations and 5 written warnings for a total of 13 citations being issued on the grants during the month of December 2009. The investigation of these violations resulted in 1 adult arrest with 2 charges being filed and 0 juvenile arrests with 0 charges being filed on the grants for the month of December, 2009.

OLD BUSINESS

There were no items of "Old Business" for tonight's meeting.

REPORTS

Budget – Chief Frego advised there was nothing new to report.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Police Officer Eligibility List – Commissioner Dodaro stated the Commission has completed the three (3) steps for completing the Police Officer's Eligibility List. He anticipated they should finalize this task sometime within the next few weeks, at which time the Eligibility List will then be posted.

NEW BUSINESS

Revised St. John Police Department Organization Chart – Commissioner Dodaro stated the Commission had before them a revised St. John Police Department Organization Chart. Chief Frego advised in light of the recent restructuring of the Police Department, the Organization Chart has been revised to reflect those changes and is now being presented to the Commission for their approval. Commissioner Hejl made a motion to approve the revised St. John Police Department Organization Chart presented before them tonight. With a second by Commissioner Vale, the motion carried unanimously (3-0). Commissioner Dodaro noted that there were only two (2) changes on this Organization Chart; namely, Frank Chapranda was reassigned to the position of Assistant Chief of Police, and Sergeant Michael Fryzel was reassigned to the Patrol Division to beef up the supervision in the Patrol Division. In response to Commissioner Dodaro, Chief Frego acknowledged these were the only two (2) changes made to the Organization Chart.

CHIEF'S COMMENTS

Chief Frego stated the End of the Year Report will hopefully be completed by the February 2010 Meeting. Chief Frego commented he was looking forward to another good year in 2010 as he felt the Police Department had a good year in 2009. Chief Frego stated that although it was a very austere year financially, he feels the officers of the St. John Police Department acted in a very professional manner; they understand the situation that not only the St. John Police Department is in, but the entire economy is in. Other police departments are suffering personnel cuts and are being forced to take furlough days and pay cuts. The St. John Police Department is operating status quo. The officers understand this and are very happy with the situation; and hopefully, things will get better and we will be able to move forward in 2010.

ANY AND ALL

There were no items brought before the Commission under "Any and All."

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Adrian Bugariu, of 11747 W. 90th Avenue, St. John, stated he wanted to know "How much time for Attempted Murder, and how much time for Perjury?" Commissioner Dodaro advised that it would be up to the judge to determine as there is no set law on the matter. Mr. Bugariu asked the Commission to advise "approximately" how much time. Chief Frego stated probably 16 years for Attempted Murder, but it would depend on the circumstances surrounding the charge and what the Judge would ultimately decide. In response to Mr. Bugariu's next question regarding what it is based upon, Chief Frego responded, "The facts of the case. The evidence." Again, Mr. Bugariu asked "How much time for Perjury for a crime that somebody did not commit?" Chief Frego stated he did not understand the question. Mr. Bugariu stated "when somebody accuses somebody of a crime that the person did not commit." Chief Frego stated that would be "False Reporting," which is a Misdemeanor. Chief Frego advised that False Reporting and Perjury are two different things. Some discussion ensued wherein Chief Frego advised Mr. Bugariu that if he wanted the specific answers to his questions, he should contact the Lake County Prosecutor's Office. Commissioner Dodaro also stated the Lake County Prosecutor's Office would be the proper venue to ask these questions to. Further, Commissioner Dodaro stated "perjury" is something that happens in Court. Filing a false police report is different than perjury. It is when you lie in Court while being under oath. More discussion ensued explaining the difference between a false report and perjury ending with Mr. Bugariu being advised to contact the Lake County Prosecutor's Office for the answers to his questions.

MEETING SCHEDULE

The next Regular Meeting will be on Monday, February 8, 2010. The Regular Public Meeting will begin at 7:00 P.M. There will be a Work Study Session only if deemed necessary. Any and all Executive Sessions will be advertised pursuant to law. Next month's meeting will include the Annual Tow Meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Hejl made a motion for adjournment. With a second by Commissioner Vale, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:10 P.M.

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

Rose Hejl, Secretary

ATTEST:

Joan M. Gorcos, Recording Secretary