

## **ST. JOHN POLICE COMMISSION**

### **MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING FEBRUARY 8, 2010**

The February 2010 Regular Meeting of the Board of Metropolitan Police Commissioners of the Town of St. John was held on February 8, 2010 at 7:00 P.M., as advertised, pursuant to law. Commissioner Dodaro called the meeting to order promptly at 7:01 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 Robert Long. Also present were Chief Fred Frego and Town Council Member Jerri Teibel. Commissioners Donald Farris and Ronald Vale were not present. No legal representation was present at the meeting.

### **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MONTH'S MINUTES**

**January 11, 2010 Regular Meeting** - Commissioner Hejl made a motion to approve the minutes as written from the January 11, 2010 Regular Meeting. With a second by Commissioner Long, the motion carried unanimously (3-0).

### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

**Election of Officers** – Commissioner Long made a motion to keep the officers of the Board of Metropolitan Police Commissioners of the Town of St. John the same as in the Year 2009; namely, William Dodaro – President; Ronald Vale – Vice President; and Rose Hejl – Secretary. With a second by Commissioner Hejl, the motion carried unanimously (3-0).

### **ANNUAL TOW MEETING**

**Annual Tow Meeting** – The following tow firm representatives were present for the Annual Tow Meeting:

Mr. Tim Rosinko of St. John Auto;  
Mr. Joe Kubiak of Kubiak's Towing; and  
Mr. Dan Lukasik of Stan's Towing.

All representatives agreed everything was going fine, and they had no complaints. Commissioner Dodaro commented that the number of tows were down in Year 2009 compared to the previous year. Chief Frego stated it was brought to his attention by Corporal Jay Dahlin, who is present at tonight's meeting, the response time for tows, especially during the middle of the night, had on occasion been lengthy. Chief Frego stated he did not think it was a serious problem but asked the tow firm representatives if they felt they could respond within 15-20 minutes, even when responding during the middle of the night from home. Mr. Rosinko stated a 15-20 minute response time during the night would be a little bit difficult, especially when the diesel trucks needed time to warm up.

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Commissioner Long asked if the Commission could set an SLA (Service Level Agreement) with the tow firms wherein the tow firms would agree to a 30 minute window for arrivals. The Commission would then manage the SLA to track and see how well the tow firms are responding. Commissioner Long stated that one could not manage the response times if the response times were not being tracked. Further, since this situation has been brought to the Commission's attention, he would like an SLA put in place. Some discussion ensued. Commissioner Dodaro asked the tow firms if they could provide an estimated time of arrival (ETA) when they are called out. Chief Frego reiterated that he did not think this was a big problem, and it only is a problem during the times when there are only two (2) officers working as one officer has to standby waiting for the tow firm to arrive while the other officer transports the arrestee to the station. More discussion ensued. It was agreed that both the Police Department and the tow firms would work on this matter, and it was agreed that things would work out fine.

Mr. Rosinko's only comment was that he felt sometimes when a need for a tow truck occurs in front of his shop (i.e., accident), that he should be called for that tow as he could respond quicker, which would allow the roadway to be cleared sooner, and it would shorten the amount of time the officers would be tied up with traffic control. Chief Frego stated it was a good idea, and he felt the officers are currently taking response time into consideration when requesting a tow. Some discussion ensued. Chief Frego stated it was his opinion that all the tow firms are doing a good job. Commissioner Dodaro thanked the tow firm representatives for attending tonight's meeting and for the fine service they provide the St. John Police Department throughout the year.

### **2009 YEAR END REPORT**

**2009 Year End Report** – Commissioner Dodaro stated he reviewed the 2009 Year End Report and felt it looked very good. There was one typographical error that has been corrected; specifically, Page 8, Racial Profiling Report by Officer, Officer S. Flores' total number of persons cited should be "322" and not "3222." Commissioner Dodaro stated in reviewing the report, he noted the mileage driven by officers was down, as well as the monies spent on gasoline. Crime stayed the same. Chief Frego stated the Department spent approximately about \$28,000 less in Year 2009 on gasoline than during the Year 2008. Chief Frego stated the officers were asked to voluntarily watch their off-duty mileage and they did, which is reflected in the report, and they are to be commended for their efforts. Commissioner Dodaro also noted the number of citations issued was lower. Chief Frego stated the calls for service was almost the same in 2009 as it was in 2008, which was surprising since the Town had annexed Tiburon and Grouse Point Subdivisions.

### **CORRESPONDENCE / COMMUNICATIONS**

There were no items of "Correspondence / Communication" presented at tonight's meeting.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT'S MONTHLY REPORT**

Chief Frego read the monthly report for January 2010. Chief Frego stated that from January 1, 2010 through January 31, 2010, the members of the St. John Police Department logged 17,552 miles and responded to 450 incidents. The investigation of these incidents led to 23 adult arrests with 36 charges being filed, and 3 juvenile arrests with 3 charges being filed. There were 242 traffic citations issued along with 62 written warnings for a total of 304 citations being issued during the month of January 2010 by the officers of the St. John Police Department. Also during the month of January, vehicle thefts totaled \$0.00, and all other thefts totaled \$3,309.00. The total value of recovered property was \$20,000.00. There was no grant activity during the month of January 2010.

**OLD BUSINESS**

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

**REPORTS**

**Budget** – Chief Frego advised the 2010 Budget has been finalized, and it is the same as the 2007 Budget, 2008 Budget, and 2009 Budget. Chief Frego stated that fortunately, the Infraction Deferral Program has been able to aid the budget with income. Commissioner Dodaro stated it was stated on a TV program regarding the economic situation of various States that although the State of Indiana has been in a little bit of trouble, overall the State had prepared itself very well and was actually in good shape. Chief Frego stated the Town of St. John was in better shape than most towns in the area, and it has been noted in the local paper that some towns have gone to giving furlough days to officers and some are considering layoffs.

**HUMAN RESOURCES**

**Police Officer Eligibility List** – Commissioner Dodaro stated he has spoken with Commissioner Farris who advises he will be returning from Florida within the next couple of weeks. Upon Commissioner Farris' return, the Commission will then get together to finalize the Police Officer's Eligibility List by the early part of March 2010.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Revised St. John Police Department Organization Chart** – This item should have not been included on the agenda as it was a matter addressed at the January 11, 2010 meeting.

**CHIEF'S COMMENTS**

Chief Frego thanked the Commission for its cooperation in Year 2009, and stated he was hoping for a good year in 2010.

Chief Frego advised that back in September 2009, there was a substantial theft from a Snap-On Tools truck wherein over \$400,000 worth of merchandise was reported stolen, as well as the vehicle was reported stolen. The St. John Police Department took the initial vehicle theft report. The vehicle was found the next day burnt in Chicago around 39<sup>th</sup> Street and Ashland Avenue. The contents of the vehicle are gone. Corporal Jay Dahlin and Sergeant Michael Fryzel worked the investigation. Through their investigation, and solely through their investigation, interviews and surveillance monitoring equipment, the officers were able to ascertain that the gentleman who filed the report filed a false report. He was in some serious financial trouble, and he was going to do an insurance job on this company. The insurance company denied payment, the merchandise was recovered from a warehouse here in St. John, and the gentleman is being prosecuted for false reporting. The National Bureau of Insurance is going after this man. The good news is Snap-On was very happy with the work of the St. John Police Department, and they sent the Police Department a check for \$2,500 to be deposited in the Department's gift fund. The extended their sincere thanks to the entire team here and Sgt. Michael Fryzel.

**ANY AND ALL**

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

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no items brought before the Commission under "Public Comment."

**MEETING SCHEDULE**

The next Regular Meeting will be on Monday, March 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 Long, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:18 P.M.

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

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Rose Hejl, Secretary

ATTEST:

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Joan M. Gorcos, Recording Secretary