

## **ST. JOHN POLICE COMMISSION**

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

The November 2010 Regular Meeting of the Board of Metropolitan Police Commissioners of the Town of St. John was held on November 8, 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, Robert Long, and Ronald Vale. Also present were Chief of Police Fred Frego and Town Council Liaison Michael Forbes. Commissioners Donald Farris and Rose Hejl were not present at the meeting. No legal representation was present at the meeting.

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

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

### **CORRESPONDENCE / COMMUNICATIONS**

There were no items of "Correspondence / Communications" brought forth at tonight's meeting.

### **POLICE DEPARTMENT'S MONTHLY REPORT**

Chief Frego read the monthly report for October 2010. Chief Frego stated that from October 1, 2010 through October 31, 2010, the members of the St. John Police Department logged 16,116 miles and responded to 584 incidents. The investigation of these incidents led to 24 adult arrests with 28 charges being filed, and 8 juvenile arrests with 8 charges being filed. There were 211 traffic citations issued along with 36 written warnings for a total of 247 citations being issued during the month of October 2010 by the officers of the St. John Police Department. Also during the month of October, vehicle thefts totaled \$5,000.00, and all other thefts totaled \$4,735.00. The total value of recovered property was \$100.00. The officers of the St. John Police Department, while working the OPO / BCC / DDE / DUI Taskforce Grants, issued 0 traffic citations and 0 written warnings for a total of 0 citations being issued on the grants during the month of October 2010. 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 October 2010.

Chief Frego stated the Police Department has been tracking the number of Infraction Deferral Agreements entered into each month. In comparison to Year 2009, the Department is up by 73 Infraction Deferral Agreements (2010 Year-to-Date = 825 vs. 2009 Year-to-Date = 752). The call volume is down 226 calls; however, the types of calls the officers are responding to have been more serious in nature. Chief Frego stated it has been noted there has been an increase in the number of domestic calls. Chief Frego felt the rise in the number of domestic calls is

most likely due to the current status of the economy, as well as the Town's growth and population.

Chief Frego commented that the number of miles driven by the officers is down. Regarding the Monthly Fuel/Mileage Report, it should be noted that a problem was discovered this month with a formula in the Excel spreadsheet used for calculating this report, which has caused inaccurate reporting of year-to-date figures for miles driven and gallons used since the June report. The formula has been corrected, and the report in the October 2010 Monthly Report is accurate.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Revised General Order 14.07 – Station Video Recording Equipment** – Chief Frego advised this matter has to do with a new State mandate that goes into effect on January 1, 2011, wherein all felony arrests are to be video recorded. Chief Frego states he continues to wait for direction on this matter from the Lake County Prosecutor's Office, as they now want a standardized general order for this process amongst all 18 Police Departments in Lake County. There will be some upcoming training also provided on this matter. In response to Commissioner Long's question, Chief Frego advised there is no State funding provided for upgrades that are required due to new State mandates. In this particular situation, Chief Frego stated that this mandate will cost the Department between \$4,000 - \$5,000 for upgrades. St. John applied for a grant, as well as other Departments in Lake County (Schererville, Cedar Lake, Dyer, Lowell, etc.), but St. John was turned down. The only Department to be successful in the grant application was Lake County. Some discussion ensued.

### **REPORTS**

**Budget** – Chief Frego advised the 2011 Budget has been finalized.

### **HUMAN RESOURCES**

**Human Resources** – Commissioner Dodaro advised the Sergeant's Test is scheduled for this Saturday, November 13, 2010 at 9:00 A.M. at the St. John Police Department. Chief Frego stated he made an unofficial call to the Number 1 Candidate on the Police Officer Eligibility List, and not promising anything to him regarding employment, he stated the call was placed to see where the candidate is at regarding coming to work for the St. John Police Department. This candidate currently is a certified officer with Munster Police Department. At the time of the call, the candidate stated he will make a decision when, and if, he is offered the position.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

There were no matters of "New Business."

**CHIEF'S COMMENTS**

Regarding the pending K-9 issue, Chief Frego stated the matter is moving forward and currently, they are waiting to hear the outcome of the Town's insurance carrier determining what liability it will assume. Chief Frego stated he hoped to have an answer before next month's regular meeting. Commissioner Dodaro stated the Commission may consider calling an Executive Meeting regarding this matter once the insurance carrier's determination is received. Some discussion ensued.

**ANY AND ALL**

Lt. Richard Kouder, who was in the audience, advised the Commission that a card with a note written in it was received today from the Gidcumb Family on W. Oak Ridge Drive, in St. John. The card was sent to Officer Steve Flores and thanked him for saving the life of their son who had overdosed on drugs. When Officer Flores arrived on scene, the son was breathing approximately four (4) times per minute. Officer Flores performed CPR on the son and is credited for saving his life. The St. John Paramedics arrived and were able to bring him back. Some discussion ensued.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no "Public Comment" at tonight's meeting.

**MEETING SCHEDULE**

The next Regular Meeting will be on Monday, December 13, 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. Saturday, November 13, 2010, at 9:00 A.M., the Sergeant's Test will take place. The allotted amount of time to complete this test is three (3) hours. The test will be taken in the Police Department's Training Room.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Commissioner Vale made a motion for adjournment. With a second by Commissioner Long, the meeting was adjourned at 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