

ST. JOHN POLICE COMMISSION

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING JANUARY 10, 2011

The January 2011 Regular Meeting of the Board of Metropolitan Police Commissioners of the Town of St. John was held on January 10, 2011 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 was Chief of Police Fred Frego. Commissioners Donald Farris and Robert Long, as well as Town Council Liaison Michael Forbes, were not present. No legal representation was present at the meeting.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MONTH'S MINUTES

December 13, 2010 Regular Meeting - Commissioner Hejl made a motion to approve the minutes as written from the December 13, 2010 Regular Meeting. With a second by Commissioner Vale, the motion carried unanimously (3-0).

CORRESPONDENCE / COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioner Hejl read a letter dated December 22, 2010 and addressed to Assistant Chief of Police Frank Chapranda and Staff. Said correspondence was from resident Lee Milazzo, also owner of Perm Machine & Tool Company located here in St. John. Mr. Milazzo stated in his letter he wished to thank Assistant Chief Chapranda and all the members of the St. John Police Department for the excellent level of professionalism that has always been extended to him and his family, as well as to his business Perm Machine & Tool Company. Whether it was an accidental false alarm at his home and/or business, and even when an officer performed CPR on his father, Leo, in Stop & Shop as he laid there dying, Mr. Milazzo stated he owed the Department a long overdue sincere thank you and a debt of gratitude. Mr. Milazzo and his wife, Cindy, wished to extend a small token of their appreciation by providing lunch to all members of the staff of the St. John Police Department. To make this task simple, they chose to patronize local St. John restaurants and sandwich shops, and they purchased gift cards for all members on staff to enjoy lunch on them.

POLICE DEPARTMENT'S MONTHLY REPORT

Chief Frego read the monthly report for December 2010. Chief Frego stated that from December 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010, the members of the St. John Police Department logged 15,321 miles and responded to 513 incidents. The investigation of these incidents led to 8 adult arrests with 8 charges being filed, and 4 juvenile arrests with 4 charges being filed. There were 77 traffic citations issued along with 20 written warnings for a total of 97 citations being issued during the month of December 2010 by the officers of the St. John Police Department. Also during the month of December, vehicle thefts totaled \$19,000.00, and all other thefts totaled \$3,265.00. The total value of recovered property was \$3,001.00. 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 December 2010. The investigation of these violations resulted

in 0 adult arrest with 0 charge being filed and 0 juvenile arrests with 0 charges being filed on the grants for the month of December 2010.

OLD BUSINESS

Revised General Order 14.07 – Station Video Recording Equipment – Instead of revising this General Order, Chief Frego stated a new General Order was written; General Order 9.09 – Electronic Recording of Custodial Interrogations and Confessions. See below under “New Business.”

REPORTS

Budget – Chief Frego advised the 2011 Budget has been finalized, it is in place, and it is the same as last year.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Human Resources – Commissioner Dodaro stated the Commission has received a request to hire a Police Officer from Chief Frego to replace one of the two officers that retired. Commissioner Hejl made a motion to authorize and approve Chief Frego to hire a police officer to fill one of the two vacant spots that the Police Department currently has. With a second by Commissioner Vale, the motion carried unanimously (3-0). Chief Frego stated he would like to have authorization to offer the position to the first candidate on the Final Register of Police Officer Candidates and should that person decline the position, then to proceed to the next candidate on the list and so on until the position is filled. The Commission agreed and granted Chief Frego permission to offer the position to the first candidate on the Final Register of Police Officer Candidates and should that individual decline, Chief Frego was to continue down the list until the position is filled.

Though he did not see the item on the agenda but based on his knowledge gained through conversations with the Chief, Commissioner Dodaro asked Chief Frego if he was requesting permission to fill one of the two supervisors’ positions at this time. Chief Frego responded with a “yes.” Commissioner Hejl made a motion to promote the first officer on the Sergeant’s Eligibility List to the rank of Sergeant. With a second by Commissioner Vale, the motion carried unanimously (3-0). Some discussion ensued regarding as to when to make this promotion effective. Chief Frego stated it would not be possible to get the officer sworn-in at the next Town Council Meeting, which would be held this coming Thursday, January 13, 2011. Therefore, the swearing-in would have to be at the last Town Council Meeting for the month scheduled for January 27, 2011. It was agreed the effective date for this promotion would be the first day of the next pay period after January 27, 2011, which would be Saturday, January 29, 2011. Commissioner Dodaro asked that once Chief Frego set up the swearing-in, the Chief then notify the Commissioners so that they could make arrangements to be in attendance.

NEW BUSINESS

New General Order 9.09 – Electronic Recording of Custodial Interrogations and Confessions – Chief Frego stated effective January 1, 2011, per Indiana Supreme Court Rule 617, all statements of suspects in felony arrests are to be video recorded. IBT installed a stand-alone system on December 21, 2010 at the station. The audio/visual is of a good quality. Chief Frego stated he has been waiting for the Prosecutor's Office to come thru with a policy, but that never happened so he decided to do our own policy. After reviewing other departments' policies, General Order 9.09 was written. Commissioner Hejl made a motion to approve General Order 9.09 – Electronic Recording of Custodial Interrogations and Confessions as written. With a second by Commissioner Vale, the motion carried unanimously (3-0). In response to Commissioner Dodaro's question, Chief Frego advised the stand alone system has been installed, tested, and is operational. Now that the General Order has been approved, Chief Frego stated training on the system will be provided to the appropriate personnel. Commissioner Dodaro suggested that if any of the Commissioners would like to view the new equipment and see how it operates, they should contact Chief Frego and make arrangements to see the system.

Revised Table of Contents for General Orders – Commissioner Hejl made a motion to accept and approve the revised Table of Contents for General Orders as presented. With a second by Commissioner Vale, the motion carried unanimously (3-0).

CHIEF'S COMMENTS

Chief Frego requested the Commission's approval to attend the Indiana Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) Annual Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana on January 26, 27 and 28, 2011. Chief Frego stated he has gone every year in the past, and would like to attend this year. Commissioner Hejl made a motion to approve Chief Frego's attendance at the Indiana Association of Chiefs of Police Annual Conference being held January 26-28, 2011 in Indianapolis, Indiana. With a second by Commissioner Vale, the motion carried unanimously (3-0).

Chief Frego stated he has been in contact with an individual who is taking "up the torch" to deny the parole of John Lee, the individual convicted of killing both Indiana State Trooper John Streu and St. John Town Marshal James Larimer in 1971. The next parole hearing is February 8, 2011. This subject has requested that Chief Frego, and whoever else is available, appear before the Parole Board on February 8, 2011 at 8:30 A.M. Indianapolis time. Chief Frego stated he would be going to Indianapolis the night before the hearing and would be staying the night so that he could appear before the Parole Board on the morning of February 8, 2011. Chief Frego added that James Larimer's son is flying in from California for this hearing as well. Trooper Streu's wife, who lives in Peru, Indiana, will also be in attendance. Chief Frego stated there is a petition being circulated for individuals to sign in regards to denying John Lee parole. Some discussion ensued. The Commission stated they were in favor of Chief Frego attending this Parole Hearing.

Chief Frego advised the Commission that February 20, 2011 will be the 40th Anniversary of the shootings of Trooper John Streu and Town Marshal James Larimer. A memorial service is in the process of being planned on that day. Officer Steve Flores is involved in the planning of this event, and he is doing a really good job. The Indiana State Police will be in attendance, along

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with the Lake County Bags and Drums. The service will be held at 1:00 P.M. on February 20, 2011 at Kolling Elementary School, the site of the actual shootings. Refreshments will be served after the service in the school's gymnasium. Some discussion ensued.

ANY AND ALL

There were no items of "Any and All."

PUBLIC COMMENT

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

MEETING SCHEDULE

The next Regular Meeting will be on Monday, February 14, 2011. 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.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Farris made a motion for adjournment. With a second by Commissioner Vale, the meeting was adjourned at 7:17 P.M.

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

Rose Hejl, Secretary

ATTEST:

Joan M. Gorcos, Recording Secretary