

## **ST. JOHN POLICE COMMISSION**

### **MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING FEBRUARY 14, 2011**

The February 2011 Regular Meeting of the Board of Metropolitan Police Commissioners of the Town of St. John was held on February 14, 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. Town Council Liaison Michael Forbes was present, as well as Town Council President Mark Barenie. Commissioners Donald Farris and Robert Long were not present. No legal representation was present at the meeting.

### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Commissioner Hejl 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 2010; namely, William Dodaro – Chairman; Ronald Vale – Vice Chairman; and Rose Hejl – Secretary. With a second by Commissioner Vale, the motion carried unanimously (3-0).

### **ANNUAL TOW MEETING**

The following tow firms had representation present for the Annual Tow Meeting:

Emerald Towing  
Kubiak Service  
Stan's Auto Body and Towing

Mr. Tim Rosinko, of St. John Auto and Towing, had planned on being in attendance but was currently at the hospital due to a fall. Commissioner Dodaro commented that the total number of tows for the Year 2010 (341) was down from Year 2009 (399). Other than fewer tows, everything else appeared to be going well. A gentleman named Scott, representing Emerald Towing of 12644 Wicker Avenue in Cedar Lake, Indiana, stated it has been 2-1/2 years since his company has received a tow from the St. John Police Department, and he wondered why his firm was not being called for tows. Scott also stated he had knowledge that the St. John Police Department called for a heavy wrecker tow on February 7, 2011, and his company did not receive that call. In response to Chief Frego's question, Recording Secretary Joan Gorcoco advised there were only two (2) heavy wrecker tows in 2010 from the St. John Police Department, and Stan's responded to both. Chief Frego stated he did not know exactly why Emerald did not receive a tow from St. John, but it could be due to availability. Some discussion ensued. Commissioner Dodaro stated Chief Frego would look into the matter and would get back to Emerald Towing with an answer.

**APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MONTH'S MINUTES**

**January 10, 2011 Regular Meeting** - Commissioner Vale made a motion to approve the minutes as written from the January 10, 2011 Regular Meeting. With a second by Commissioner Hejl, the motion carried unanimously (3-0).

**CORRESPONDENCE / COMMUNICATIONS**

There were no items of correspondence presented at tonight's meeting.

**2010 YEAR END REPORT**

The Commissioners stated the 2010 Year End Report was an excellent report and was very well done. Chief Frego thanked the Commission for their comments.

**POLICE DEPARTMENT'S MONTHLY REPORT**

Chief Frego read the monthly report for January 2011. Chief Frego stated that from January 1, 2011 through January 31, 2011, the members of the St. John Police Department logged 14,518 miles and responded to 472 incidents. The investigation of these incidents led to 18 adult arrests with 24 charges being filed, and 4 juvenile arrests with 6 charges being filed. There were 209 traffic citations issued along with 43 written warnings for a total of 252 citations being issued during the month of January 2011 by the officers of the St. John Police Department. Also during the month of January, vehicle thefts totaled \$1,500.00, and all other thefts totaled \$7,654.00. The total value of recovered property was \$0.00. 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 January 2011. 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 January 2011.

**OLD BUSINESS**

There were no matters of "Old Business."

**HUMAN RESOURCES**

**New Hire – David L. Rybicki** – Chief Frego advised that Officer David Rybicki was not sworn in at tonight's meeting as originally anticipated due to the Department not receiving approval from PERF. Chief Frego stated that Officer Rybicki's physical and psychological exams were

completed, and the proper paperwork was prepared and sent to PERF in Indianapolis; however, approval has not yet been received as of the time of this meeting. In order to not jeopardize Officer Rybicki's employment as a police officer, Chief Frego contacted Munster's Chief of Police, and made arrangements for Officer Rybicki to remain on Munster's payroll until St. John receives approval from PERF. It is anticipated that Officer Rybicki will be sworn in at the St. John Town Council meeting scheduled for later this month.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Approve Revised General Order 19.01 – Police Dog** – Chief Frego advised the only revision to this General Order is on Page 5, Item 7. Training and Care, Paragraph a. The revision now stipulates that K-9 officers will review and execute a Canine Officer Compensation Agreement for compensation related to K-9 responsibilities. Commissioner Hejl made a motion to accept and approve the revised General Order 19.01 – Police Dog as presented. With a second by Commissioner Vale, the motion carried unanimously (3-0).

**Approve Canine Officer Compensation Agreement** – For their approval, the Commission had before them a Canine Officer Compensation Agreement that was prepared by the Town's Attorney. Commissioner Hejl made a motion to approve the agreement as written. With a second by Commissioner Vale, the motion carried unanimously (3-0).

### **CHIEF'S COMMENTS**

Chief Frego advised he traveled to Indianapolis last week to attend the parole hearing for John Robert Lee, who was convicted of the murders of Town Marshal James Larimer and ISP Trooper John Streu, which occurred on the morning of February 20, 1971. Chief Frego stated he has since learned that John Robert Lee's parole was denied, and he will remain incarcerated for at least another five (5) years.

Chief Frego commented that a Memorial Service is being planned for the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the shootings of Town Marshal James Larimer and ISP Trooper John Streu. The service is scheduled for 1:00 P.M. on Sunday, February 20, 2011, and will be held at the Kolling Elementary School (site of the shootings). All area departments are invited to attend, as well as the widows of the slain officers, their families, and anyone else who like to attend.

### **ANY AND ALL**

Town Councilman Mark Barenie, as well as Town Councilman Mike Forbes, brought to the attention of the Commission their concerns regarding a Town resident who regularly attends Town Council Meetings; namely, Adrian Bugariu. Both councilmen stated they have noticed a change in Mr. Bugariu's demeanor, which is causing them concern regarding their safety, as well as the safety of others who are in attendance at the Council Meetings. After much

discussion ensued, it was agreed that a uniformed St. John Police Officer will be in attendance at all future Town Council meetings.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

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

**MEETING SCHEDULE**

The next Regular Meeting will be on Monday, March 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 Hejl made a motion for adjournment. With a second by Commissioner Vale, the meeting was adjourned at 7:27 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