

## **ST. JOHN POLICE COMMISSION**

### **MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING JULY 11, 2011**

The July 2011 Regular Meeting of the Board of Metropolitan Police Commissioners of the Town of St. John was held on July 11, 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, Don Farris, Rose Hejl and Ron Vale. Also present were Chief of Police Fred Frego and Town Councilman Kenneth Gembala. Commissioner Robert Long was not present. No legal representation was present at the meeting.

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

**June 13, 2011 Regular Meeting** - Commissioner Farris made a motion to approve the minutes as written from the June 13, 2011 Regular Meeting. With a second by Commissioner Hejl, the motion carried unanimously (4-0).

### **CORRESPONDENCE / COMMUNICATIONS**

Chief Frego advised that Clerk-Treasurer Sherry Sury supplied him with a letter from Town Resident Adrian Bugariu, which was addressed to the Town Council. Chief Frego advised copies of said letter are available upon request.

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

Chief Frego read the monthly report for June 2011. Chief Frego stated that from June 1, 2011 through June 30, 2011, the members of the St. John Police Department logged 17,687 miles and responded to 595 incidents. The investigation of these incidents led to 31 adult arrests with 46 charges being filed, and 0 juvenile arrests with 0 charges being filed. There were 330 traffic citations issued along with 54 written warnings for a total of 384 citations being issued during the month of June 2011 by the officers of the St. John Police Department. Also during the month of June, vehicle thefts totaled \$9,000.00, and all other thefts totaled \$18,741.00. 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 151 traffic citations and 88 written warnings for a total of 239 citations being issued on the grants during the month of June 2011. The investigation of these violations resulted in 3 adult arrests with 3 charges being filed and 0 juvenile arrests with 0 charges being filed on the grants for the month of June 2011.

Chief Frego advised a new reporting category has been added to the Monthly Report; that being: Traffic Stops. This data is included on the page with the 511 Citations Issued and Infraction Deferral Agreements. In June, the St. John Police Department conducted 670 Traffic

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Stops. Chief Frego stated that the officers of the St. John Police Department issued 284 "511" Citations, some of which were written by officers working the grants. There were 122 Infraction Deferral Agreements in the month of June 2011, for a total of 593 Infraction Deferral Agreements for the year-to-date.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Dave's Towing – Removal from Heavy Wrecker Tow List** – Recording Secretary Joan Gorcos advised a certified letter has been sent to Dave's Towing, and we are currently awaiting a response. Chief Frego stated he heard again today that Dave's Towing is out of business.

### **HUMAN RESOURCES**

There were no items regarding "Human Resources."

### **NEW BUSINESS**

There were no items of "New Business."

### **CHIEF'S COMMENTS**

Chief Frego advised Corporal Dale Poston's father passed away today. Funeral arrangements are not yet available.

Chief Frego stated he is in the process of ordering a squad car; specifically, A Ford Crown Victoria. Approval to order has been received from the Town Council, and he has completed the paperwork to apply for Ford Credit.

### **ANY AND ALL**

Commissioner Farris mentioned that August 2, 2011 is the National Night Out. Chief Frego advised the Department would be hosting their National Night Out Against Crime on August 2, 2011 from 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM in Civic Park.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Mr. Adrian Bugariu, of 11747 W. 90<sup>th</sup> Avenue, St. John, asked the Commission the following question, "What is the purpose of the Police Commission? What exactly are the duties and ...?" Commissioner Dodaro advised that information is included in the Indiana State Statute for Police Commissions. Commissioner Dodaro stated, for the sake of argument, the Commission sets policy, and is in charge of hiring, firing and promotions.

Mr. Bugariu stated he had his camera taken away from him in 2008, and he was told by Officer Sidenbender that he had to arrest him and take his camera because he (Adrian) had been taking pictures. Mr. Bugariu stated his camera has not yet been returned to him. Commissioner Dodaro asked Mr. Bugariu if he was arrested when his camera was taken. Mr. Bugariu stated yes, he was. Commissioner Dodaro asked Mr. Bugariu if that case was still pending. Mr. Bugariu stated Jerrie Teibel put restrictions on him for stalking, but she was the one doing the stalking. Commissioner Dodaro asked Mr. Bugariu several more times if the case was still pending, and he finally answered "yes." Mr. Bugariu then asked if the Police Department has an Internal Affairs Division or individual. Commissioner Dodaro advised that whenever there is a complaint filed against a police officer, that complaint will be investigated. Commissioner Dodaro stated this is not like Chicago, or the State of Indiana or the State of Illinois. The Police Department does not have an Internal Affairs Division. Complaints are investigated as they come in. Mr. Bugariu then began speaking of procedures when Chief Joseph Guzik was in charge. Mr. Bugariu stated that it seems to him that since Chief Frego has been in charge, he (Frego) has a different policy wherein all the charges or complaints are tossed in the garbage, or they are never received, just like (Mike) Fryzel and Jerrie Teibel used to toss the torte notices into the garbage. Commissioner Dodaro stated he cannot debate what Fryzel and Teibel did, but he could tell him this: The policy is the complaint form is filled out at the police station and signed in front of witnesses. The complainant, whoever that may be, does not walk away with a copy of the complaint. The complaint is then forwarded to the Police Chief, and it is investigated. Some discussion ensued.

Mr. Bugariu stated he knows for a fact certain police officers inside the Police Department know about Fryzel trying to commit attempted murder against him on May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2005. Mr. Bugariu stated he requests that this man (Fryzel) be arrested and charged with attempted murder. Mr. Bugariu then started speaking of Chief Frego disciplining his very good friend Bernie Johnsen. Commissioner Dodaro stopped Mr. Bugariu at this point, stating that these issues have been debated over and over again throughout the years, and he does not have answers for him (Bugariu). Commissioner Dodaro stated that if Mr. Bugariu was not satisfied with the St. John Police Department, he had the right to go to the Prosecutor's Office and file a complaint there. Mr. Bugariu began making comments about the case that is pending in court, and Commissioner Dodaro stated again that he could not discuss this matter as it is still in court. Mr. Bugariu ended by stating, "I demand that Fryzel be arrested and charged with attempted murder."

**MEETING SCHEDULE**

The next Regular Meeting will be on Monday, August 8, 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 7:10 P.M. (4-0).

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