

ST. JOHN POLICE COMMISSION

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING APRIL 9, 2012

The April 2012 Regular Meeting of the Board of Metropolitan Police Commissioners of the Town of St. John was held on April 9, 2012 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, Donald Farris, Rose Hejl, and Robert Long. Also present were Chief of Police Fred Frego and Town Council Liaison Kenneth Gembala. Attorney David Austgen was also present at the meeting. Commissioner Ronald Vale was not present due to illness.

PRESENTATION

Mrs. Marion Thiel, Americanism Chairman for the First District Ladies Auxiliary Veterans of Foreign Wars, and Ms. Helen Fross, President of the First District Ladies Auxiliary Veterans of Foreign Wars, presented Chief Fred Frego with two (2) 3' x 5' American flags. Mrs. Thiel advised each year the First District, which covers all of Lake County, Indiana, presents two (2) flags to a department, and they have chosen the St. John Police Department to be this year's recipient. Chief Frego commented that Marion Thiel is a staunch supporter of the St. John Police Department and veterans, and she is always willing to assist the Police Department in any way possible. Mrs. Thiel stated she is very proud of the Town of St. John, and feels the Town is doing great. Commissioner Dodaro thanked Mrs. Thiel for the flags and told her it was an honor to have her in attendance. Photos were taken.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Commissioner Dodaro opened the floor for nominations for the election of officers:

Chairman – Commissioner Farris nominated William Dodaro for the position of Chairman. Commissioner Hejl seconded the nomination. All commissioners then cast a unanimous vote for William Dodaro as Chairman of the St. John Police Commission for the Year 2012 (4-0).

Vice-Chairman – Commissioner Dodaro nominated Donald Farris for the position of Vice-Chairman. Commissioner Long seconded the nomination. All commissioners then cast a unanimous vote for Donald Farris as Vice-Chairman of the St. John Police Commission for the Year 2012 (4-0).

Secretary – Commissioner Farris nominated Rose Hejl for the position of Secretary. Commissioner Long seconded the nomination. All commissioners then cast a unanimous vote for Rose Hejl as Secretary of the St. John Police Commission for the Year 2012 (4-0).

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MONTH'S MINUTES

February 13, 2012 Regular Meeting - Commissioner Hejl made a motion to approve the minutes as written from the February 13, 2012 Regular Meeting. With a second by Commissioner Farris, the motion carried unanimously (4-0).

CORRESPONDENCE / COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioner Dodaro advised the Commission was in receipt of a new general order, presented for their approval and authorization, regarding Social Networking. Commissioner Dodaro stated the Commission just received this general order tonight, and it was his understanding that it was a last minute update. Commissioner Dodaro stated he would like to table this item in order to give the Police Commission an opportunity to review the general order, discuss it, and possibly vote on it at the next regular meeting. The Commissioners were in agreement to table this general order and its consideration until the next regular meeting.

POLICE DEPARTMENT'S MONTHLY REPORT

Chief Frego read the monthly report for March 2012. Chief Frego stated that from March 1, 2012 through March 31, 2012, the members of the St. John Police Department logged 18,252 miles and responded to 497 incidents. The investigation of these incidents led to 26 adult arrests with 42 charges being filed, and 1 juvenile arrest with 1 charge being filed. There were 278 traffic citations issued along with 33 written warnings for a total of 307 citations being issued during the month of March 2012 by the officers of the St. John Police Department. Also during the month of March, vehicle thefts totaled \$0.00, and all other thefts totaled \$10,629.00. The total value of recovered property was \$15,200.00. Chief Frego commented that there were a total of 896 traffic stops made by the St. John police officers in the month of March. The total number of citations issued, through both duty and grant activity, was 610. Commissioner Dodaro questioned what type of property was recovered this month. Chief Frego advised that the \$15,200 was the value of a recovered vehicle as well as a couple of miscellaneous items stolen in a burglary.

OLD BUSINESS

There were no items of "Old Business."

HUMAN RESOURCES

New Hire Update – Commissioner Dodaro stated at the last Town Council meeting, the department's new patrol officer, Daniel Kolodziej, was sworn in. Commissioner Dodaro stated he would like to welcome Officer Kolodziej to the St. John Police Department. Chief Frego advised that Officer Kolodziej reported to the Academy in Plainfield on Thursday, April 5, 2012,

and successfully passed the Physical Agility test requirements for entry into the Academy. Officer Kolodziej will be reporting on Monday, April 23, 2012 to the Academy to begin his training at Plainfield for the next 15 weeks. Commissioner Dodaro stated the Commission wishes Officer Kolodziej luck and success in completing the Academy.

Request for Emergency Hire – Chief Frego stated that due to the retirement of Corporal Dale Poston, the Department has been left short one (1) officer. With the new officer that was just hired not being in service until August, Chief Frego stated he would like to forego the process of testing and creating a new Eligibility List, and instead request an Emergency Hire to obtain a certified police officer that could assume duties almost immediately. Commissioner Hejl made a motion to approve the Chief's request for an Emergency Hire. With a second by Commissioner Farris, the motion carried unanimously (4-0). Commissioner Long queried as to whether the Commission would be utilizing the Final Register of Police Officer Candidates that was in existence, and he was informed the Final Register had expired. Commissioner Long then asked if they were going to post a job opening or did the Commission have somebody in mind for the position. Commissioner Long then commented that he was confused on this issue. Chief Frego stated he did some research with other departments that have done Emergency Hiring, and he found several options available. Chief Frego stated neighboring communities have advertised by word-of-mouth, which is not a method that he favors. Chief Frego asked Attorney Austgen to provide assistance at this time. Attorney Austgen stated the Commission could do a general solicitation, and since it is an Emergency Hire, the Commission has complete flexibility. This procedure puts the Commission outside of their SOP's (Standard Operating Procedures) for the purposes that Chief Frego had indicated. Commissioner Dodaro stated that in years passed, the St. John Police Department had several police officers that were hired under an Emergency Hiring. Under the Emergency Hire, Chief Frego advised the applicants must successfully meet the physical requirements of a new officer, as well as they must successfully pass a psychological examination and a medical examination. Further, the applicant must be successfully accepted by PERF, located in Indianapolis, which is the Indiana Retirement Plan for Public Employees. Even though the applicants are current police officers in other departments, they still must pass the above mentioned items. Basically, the only item eliminated in the Emergency Hiring practice is the written test. In return, the Department would be getting a seasoned, experienced officer who can immediately go to work. Commissioner Dodaro stated with the NATO Summit coming to Chicago, Illinois, during the third week of May, he felt it would be a good idea to be staffed 100% and have as many people on the street as possible just in case something might spill over into our area. Attorney Austgen suggested the Commission direct the Chief to make solicitation that is appropriate under the circumstances and to present a list or recommendation for an interview process. Commissioner Hejl made a motion for Chief Frego to solicit a list of contenders for the new patrol position. With a second by Commissioner Farris, the motion carried unanimously (4-0).

New Eligibility List – Commissioner Dodaro stated it was his recommendation that this matter be tabled until further notice and after a time when they can have an Executive Session or Study Session to discuss this matter further. All Commissioners agreed to table this matter at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Chief Frego made a request to promote the next person on the Sergeant's Eligibility List. Commissioner Farris made a motion to proceed with the promotion of the next person on the

Sergeant's Eligibility List. Commissioner Long inquired as to who was the next person on the list. Some discussion ensued, and Commissioner Dodaro advised the next person on the list is Corporal James Turturillo. Commissioner Long requested that this item be tabled and discussed at a later time, as he did not feel he was ready to vote on this matter at the present time. Commissioner Dodaro stated the matter can be tabled and since there was an Executive Session already scheduled, it could be discussed then. Chief Frego requested the Police Commission meet sooner rather than later to discuss this matter. Commissioner Dodaro advised an Executive Session is scheduled immediately following this meeting, and they could discuss this matter at tonight's Executive Session.

In response to Commissioner Long's inquiries, Commissioner Dodaro stated Corporal Turturillo is the next in line to be promoted. Commissioner Dodaro advised the issue is the Police Department has an opening, actually, two (2) positions open, and it is currently lacking supervision. The intent is to start putting officers in place to tighten things up and move forward. Corporal Turturillo is next on the list, and it is his (Commissioner Dodaro's) recommendation to promote Corporal Turturillo. Commissioner Dodaro continued by stating in the near future, they would then prepare for another Sergeant's test and let the other officers compete for that. Commissioner Long stated he would like to discuss this further in the Executive Session.

CHIEF'S COMMENTS

Chief Frego stated, as the Commission was aware, they have ordered three (3) new cars. He received a call today advising the new cars have arrived. Chief Frego stated the financing issues should be settled in the near future, and the vehicles will then be delivered. In response to Commissioner Farris' question, Chief Frego advised two (2) of the vehicles will be marked with lights on top, and one (1) vehicle will be a black and white semi marked vehicle with lights inside for the sergeant.

ANY AND ALL

There were no comments made under "Any and All."

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no comments made under "Public Comment."

MEETING SCHEDULE

The next Regular Meeting will be on Monday, May 14, 2012. 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 Long, the meeting was adjourned at 7:17 P.M. (4-0).

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

Rose Hejl, Secretary

ATTEST:

Joan M. Gorcos, Recording Secretary