

## **ST. JOHN POLICE COMMISSION**

### **MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING AUGUST 7, 2012**

The August 2012 Regular Meeting of the Board of Metropolitan Police Commissioners of the Town of St. John was held on August 7, 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, and Rose Hejl. Commissioner Robert Long arrived shortly after the start of the meeting. Also present was Chief of Police Fred Frego. Commissioner Ronald Vale and Town Council Liaison Kenneth Gembala were not present. No legal representation was present at the meeting.

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

**July 9, 2012 Regular Meeting** - Commissioner Hejl made a motion to approve the minutes as written from the July 9, 2012 Regular Meeting. With a second by Commissioner Farris, the motion carried unanimously (3-0).

### **CORRESPONDENCE / COMMUNICATIONS**

Commissioner Dodaro advised the Commission has received written communication regarding an EEOC Complaint filed against the Commission. The matter has been turned over to the Town attorney.

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

Chief Frego read the monthly report for July 2012. Chief Frego stated that from July 1, 2012 through July 31, 2012, the members of the St. John Police Department logged 17,692 miles and responded to 534 incidents. The investigation of these incidents led to 15 adult arrests with 20 charges being filed, and 2 juvenile arrests with 3 charges being filed. There were 165 traffic citations issued along with 12 written warnings for a total of 177 citations being issued during the month of July 2012 by the officers of the St. John Police Department. Also during the month of July, vehicle thefts totaled \$26,000.00, and all other thefts totaled \$20,772.00. The total value of recovered property was \$0.00. Chief Frego commented that the vehicle thefts and the high dollar amount of other thefts were due to a theft that occurred at Redbud Landscaping. The total number of traffic stops, through both duty and grant activity, for the month of July was 503. The total number of Traffic Stops year-to-date is 3,599.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

There were no items of "Old Business."

**HUMAN RESOURCES**

Chief Frego stated he attended the graduation last Friday for Officer Daniel Kolodziej, who graduated from the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy in Plainfield, IN. Chief Frego state it was a very nice ceremony. Chief Frego also stated he is sure Officer Kolodziej is going to do well, and he was already put to work on the Saturday immediately following the graduation.

**Emergency Hire** – Chief Frego advised that Lucas Zuzich has completed all the requirements of his conditional offer, and the Department was currently waiting for his approval from PERF. Typically, it takes between 10-14 days for PERF approval.

Commissioner Dodaro stated the Commission will need to entertain the idea of completing a new Police Officer Eligibility List. Suggestions will be heard at the next Executive Session.

In response to Commissioner Long’s inquiry, Chief Frego advised we currently have 12 or 13 Reserve Officers. Commissioner Long then asked if it is the goal of the Police Department to look to them (the Reserve Officers) first or experienced police officers. Chief Frego advised it is the Department’s recent history to hire Reserves starting as far back as Corporal Dahlin. Chief Frego stated it is his belief that the Department has a reputation for hiring our Reserves. Chief Frego further stated the ones that have been hired were all good Reserves, and they are all good Police Officers.

In regards to the Eligibility List, Chief Frego stated he felt the Commission should hold off until the official word on the grant is received. If the Grant goes forward, the Department will have to hire a veteran, and that is going to take a different type of campaign to advertise for eligible people. Chief Frego stated they have approximately another month to reply to the grant. The grant was issued on June 12<sup>th</sup>, and the Department has 90 days to answer.

**NEW BUSINESS**

There were no matters of “New Business” brought forward at tonight’s meeting.

**CHIEF’S COMMENTS**

Chief Frego advised the Commission that the Town’s 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary was coming up soon, and it was going to be a big, 2-day ordeal. There will be a band and a beer tent. The dates for the celebration are Saturday and Sunday, October 6 and 7, respectively. Chief Frego advised that the annual Open House will also be held at this time as well. Also, St. John the Evangelist has their Oktoberfest going on at the same time.

Chief Frego advised that Officer Eric Andersen had surgery on his knee, and his next schedule appointment August 24, 2012 for evaluation. Chief Frego said that he does not know how long Officer Andersen will be out. Chief Frego stated he was not sure if this is the right time, but he felt discussion should be held regarding light duty for injured officers (i.e., work in the Radio Room, station reports, etc.). Commissioner Farris stated that a time limit for light duty should be considered. Some discussion was held.

**ANY AND ALL**

There were no matters of "Any and All."

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no matters of "Public Comment."

**MEETING SCHEDULE**

The next Regular Meeting should be held on Monday, September 10, 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 Long made a motion for adjournment. With a second by Commissioner Hejl, 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