

ST. JOHN POLICE COMMISSION

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING SEPTEMBER 10, 2012

The September 2012 Regular Meeting of the Board of Metropolitan Police Commissioners of the Town of St. John was held on September 10, 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 Ronald Vale. Also present was Chief of Police Fred Frego. Commissioners Rose Hejl and Robert Long, along with Town Council Liaison Kenneth Gembala, were not present. No legal representation was in attendance at the meeting.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MONTH'S MINUTES

August 7, 2012 Regular Meeting - Commissioner Vale made a motion to approve the minutes as written from the August 7, 2012 Regular Meeting. With a second by Commissioner Farris, the motion carried unanimously (3-0).

CORRESPONDENCE / COMMUNICATIONS

There were no items of Correspondence / Communications at tonight's meeting.

POLICE DEPARTMENT'S MONTHLY REPORT

Chief Frego read the monthly report for August 2012. Chief Frego stated that from August 1, 2012 through August 31, 2012, the members of the St. John Police Department logged 18,344 miles and responded to 541 incidents. The investigation of these incidents led to 35 adult arrests with 53 charges being filed, and 3 juvenile arrests with 4 charges being filed. There were 250 traffic citations issued along with 52 written warnings for a total of 302 citations being issued during the month of August 2012 by the officers of the St. John Police Department. Also during the month of August, vehicle thefts totaled \$0.00, and all other thefts totaled \$250.00. The total value of recovered property was \$0.00. The total number of citations and warnings, through both duty and grant activity, for the month of August was 665. The total number of Citations and Warnings issued, through both duty and grant activity, is 4,147. The total number of traffic stops, through both duty and grant activity, for the month of August was 630. The total number of Traffic Stops year-to-date is 4,229.

Regarding the parking restrictions in Ventura Estates and Heron Lake Subdivisions and the numerous violations of those restrictions, Commission Farris stated the violations were recently brought to the attention of the Police Department again. Commissioner Farris commented that the Police Department addressed the matter quickly and very efficiently. Commissioner Farris stated he appreciated the Department's assistance in this matter.

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Commissioner Dodaro stated he was aware there was a mass of criminal damage to property done one night (damage to mailboxes, vehicles, etc.), and there were several arrests made. Chief Frego stated there were approximately 22-23 incidents reported, mainly regarding mailboxes being destroyed. There were also a few vehicles that had windows broken out due to rocks being thrown through them. Chief Frego stated three (3) individuals were apprehended regarding the criminal damage; two (2) were adults and one (2) was a juvenile. All individuals have been charged, and the Department is hoping to get restitution for all of the victims. Chief Frego stated the officers did a really good job on this case because the suspects were not caught in the act. Chief Frego stated due to an officer's keen observation of a vehicle in the area prior to the damage being discovered, that they were able to solve this case. The officer was out on a Special Surveillance Detail, and he advised Corporal J. Dahlin of the vehicle he had seen earlier in the area of where the property damage incidents occurred. Corporal Dahlin and Dispatcher C. Wroe then did a search through our records management program for vehicles like the one that was observed. They then narrowed down the search to those that were registered to subjects in St. John. The officers then checked those locations in St. John, and found a vehicle that matched the description, and its hood was still warm to the touch at 3 o'clock in the morning. The officers knocked on the door, got the parents up, talked to the parents, and the rest is history. We are estimating there is approximately \$20,000.00 in damages. Commissioner Dodaro stated the officers did a tremendous job on this case, and he wanted the other Commissioners to be aware of it. Some discussion ensued.

In response to Commissioner Dodaro's questions, Chief Frego advised Dispatcher Cliff Wroe and his wife had twin girls born two (2) weeks ago, and everybody is doing well. The Commission asked that their congratulations be forwarded to the Wroe Family.

OLD BUSINESS

There were no items of "Old Business."

HUMAN RESOURCES

Emergency Hire – Commissioner Dodaro stated the Department has officially hired Officer Lucas Zuzich, formerly of the Merrillville Police Department. Chief Frego stated Officer Zuzich was sworn in last Friday, and today was his first day. Officer Zuzich will be on an accelerated FTO Program as he is a veteran officer. He will be working on familiarizing himself with the Department's Policies and Procedures and the geography of the Town. Chief Frego stated that hopefully, Officer Zuzich will be ready for the road in approximately 10 days.

Creation of New Eligibility List – Chief Frego asked the Commission when they would like to start the process to create a new Eligibility List. Some discussion ensued regarding the grant St. John was awarded to hire a veteran as a police officer, which has not yet been accepted, and the terms of that grant. Chief Frego also stated he has been involved in preliminary negotiations with the Lake Central High School regarding putting a police officer in school. Chief Frego stated he made a proposal to the St. John Town Council, and this Commission, that the Department co-op with Dyer, Schererville and the Lake Central School Corporation to fund

the officer in the school as St. John cannot afford to do this alone. Chief Frego added Lake Central is in dire need of a police officer in the school. Chief Frego stated he met with the principals from Lake Central, along with the police chiefs from Dyer and Schererville, and all parties are in favor of placing an officer in the school. It is anticipated that it will cost each town and the school corporation approximately \$20,000 per year to put an officer in the school. The officer placed in the school would be a current St. John officer. Some discussion ensued. Chief Frego stated he would know by October 1, 2012 whether the Town will be accepting or declining the grant to hire a veteran. The Commission decided to wait until after October 1, 2012 to start the process to create a new eligibility list.

NEW BUSINESS

There were no matters of "New Business" brought forward at tonight's meeting.

CHIEF'S COMMENTS

Chief Frego advised the Town will be celebrating its 175th Anniversary on October 6-7, 2012, and Sunday, October 7, 2012 will be the Annual Open House for Police and Fire. Commissioner Dodaro stated he would be in attendance.

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, October 8, 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 Farris made a motion for adjournment. With a second by Commissioner Vale, the meeting was adjourned at 7:16 P.M. (3-0).

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

Rose Hejl, Secretary

ATTEST:

Joan M. Gorcos, Recording Secretary