

ST. JOHN POLICE COMMISSION

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING OCTOBER 8, 2012

The October 2012 Regular Meeting of the Board of Metropolitan Police Commissioners of the Town of St. John was held on October 8, 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, Robert Long, and Ronald Vale. Also present was Chief of Police Fred Frego. Town Council Liaison Kenneth Gembala was not present. No legal representation was in attendance at the meeting.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MONTH'S MINUTES

September 10, 2012 Regular Meeting - Commissioner Hejl made a motion to approve the minutes as written from the September 10, 2012 Regular Meeting. With a second by Commissioner Vale, the motion carried unanimously (5-0).

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 September 2012. Chief Frego stated that from September 1, 2012 through September 30, 2012, the members of the St. John Police Department logged 17,497 miles and responded to 515 incidents. The investigation of these incidents led to 22 adult arrests with 31 charges being filed, and 10 juvenile arrests with 17 charges being filed. There were 224 traffic citations issued along with 49 written warnings for a total of 273 citations being issued during the month of September 2012 by the officers of the St. John Police Department. Also during the month of September, vehicle thefts totaled \$2,525.00, and all other thefts totaled \$6,405.00. The total value of recovered property was \$0.00. The total number of citations and warnings issued, through both duty and grant activity, for the month of October was 385. The total number of Citations and Warnings issued, through both duty and grant activity, for the year to date is 4,532. The total number of traffic stops, through both duty and grant activity, for the month of October was 412. The total number of Traffic Stops year-to-date is 4,641.

OLD BUSINESS

There were no items of "Old Business."

HUMAN RESOURCES

Emergency Hire – Chief Frego advised Officer Lucas Zuzich has completed a brief FTO Program and has been released for solo duty. Chief Frego stated Officer Zuzich is doing a good job. Commissioner Dodaro commented, "Officer Zuzich was a very impressive young man."

Creation of New Eligibility List – In response to Commissioner Dodaro's question, Chief Frego advised today was the "drop dead day" to accept the grant. Chief Frego stated he has not heard anything to date from the Town Council regarding this matter. Chief Frego advised he contacted the COPS Office last week and spoke with a representative about an extension on the grant, as well as he sent a letter requesting an extension. As of tonight, Chief Frego stated he has not heard whether the extension has been granted. Commissioner Dodaro stated it was his opinion the Commission should put the creation of an Eligibility List on hold until they receive a definite yes or no regarding the grant offer. Commissioner Long made a motion to place the matter of creating an Eligibility List on hold until word is received one way or the other regarding the hiring of an officer through the grant. With a second by Commissioner Hejl, the motion carried unanimously (5-0).

Corporal's Promotional Test – Commissioner Dodaro stated the Commission should set a date for the Corporal's written test. Regarding the actual written test itself, Chief Frego advised the last Corporal's Test was composed by the Department. Some discussion ensued. Commissioner Farris inquired as to the cost of going outside and ordering a test. Chief Frego explained the cost was not a lot, but it requires a study list and the whole process would be time consuming. Some discussion ensued regarding the Department's Corporal's Test.

In response to the Commission's question, Chief Frego advised that all patrol officers would be eligible to take the Corporal's Test with the exception of the last three (3) hires; namely, Officers Lucas Zuzich, Daniel Kolodziej, and David Rybicki. More discussion ensued regarding the test and a date for the test.

In response to Commissioner Vale's question regarding how many Corporal positions were open; Chief Frego advised that currently there are two (2) sergeants and two (2) corporals on the crews. Chief Frego stated in order to continue with explaining what he would like to do with the department, he would need to skip down on the agenda to "Chief's Comments," then the Commission would better understand what he would like to accomplish with the Corporal.

Chief Frego advised he has seen a presentation on a program that interested him a couple of times but at those times, the Department did not have the manpower to do what was suggested in the program. Chief Frego stated it is called ILEAC (Indiana Law Enforcement Accreditation Commission), which is similar to CALEA (Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies). Commissioner Dodaro explained CALEA is a National Law Enforcement Certification. ILEAC mirrors CALEA, but is on a State level and is less expensive.

Chief Frego stated ILEAC is the same principle as CALEA. There has to be an Accreditation Manager, who is an officer from the Department that is appointed to the position. The Department would have to apply to ILEAC. The application fee is \$500. Once the application is made and the Department is accepted, it will take approximately 1 to 1-1/2 years to complete the process to become accredited. Chief Frego commented ILEAC is sponsored by the Indiana Association of Chiefs of Police. There is a yearly fee of \$1,500 to keep the Department accredited. The \$1,500 covers the cost of ILEAC personnel visiting the Department every year

and auditing the Department. ILEAC will look through the Department's proofs of accreditation. Chief Frego then gave an example of a "proof of accreditation." The appointed Accreditation Manager would have to go a 1-day training class to learn the generalities of the program. ILEAC personnel will come to the station to monitor what is being done by the Department during the Accreditation Process. In essence, every policy the Department has will be reviewed and possibly altered according to ILEAC's standards. Some policies may have to be written if we currently do not have them. Every area of the Department will be covered, i.e. Records, Evidence, Patrol, PBT's, Radar Guns, etc. Chief Frego described the audit process. Chief Frego stated he believes the accreditation reduces liability issues because the Department will get better training. Some discussion ensued. Chief Frego stated most officers initially do not like the program because they think it is too strict and stringent, but he feels it brings the Department up to a professional level. Commissioner Farris stated it makes the Department the best of the best of the best. There are only 20 departments in the State of Indiana that are accredited. Schererville and Munster are CALEA, and it costs them approximately \$15,000 per year to stay accredited. Commissioner Long queried if the fees were paid by the officers or the Department, and he was advised the Department would pay the fees.

Chief Frego stated normally most departments appoint a Corporal, a Sergeant, or even a Lieutenant for the position of Accreditation Manager. Chief Frego stated he would like to place a Sergeant in this position. The position requires a good administrative person as there is a lot of paperwork and a lot of detail involved. The Accreditation Manager's position is an 8-hour a day job, 5-days a week. Chief Frego stated again he would like to make a Sergeant the Accreditation Manager who would work him on the Accreditation Process. This would be the sole duty of that officer. Chief Frego then stated he would like to replace the Sergeant, who is appointed to be the Accreditation Manager, with a new Corporal. Chief Frego stated with the addition of the officer that was just hired, the staffing for this accreditation is right; however, the Department's staffing was never right before.

Discussion ensued on the timeframe to accomplish the Corporal's test and the start of the Accreditation Process. Commissioner Hejl made a motion to conduct the Corporal's Promotional test on Saturday, November 17, 2012, at 1:00 P.M., in the Training Room of the Public Safety Facility. With a second by Commissioner Long, the motion carried unanimously (5-0). The date for the Oral Interviews will be announced later. Chief Frego will notify the qualified officers of the Corporal's Test.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Hejl made a motion to approve the start of the ILEAC Accreditation of the St. John Police Department. With a second by Commissioner Vale, the motion carried unanimously. Chief Frego reiterated the cost to apply for the St. John Police Department is \$500, and the annual fee for the accreditation is \$1,500. The Accreditation Process will take approximately 1 to 1-1/2 years to accomplish. The Department will have to recertify every three (3) years. Some discussion ensued.

CHIEF'S COMMENTS

Chief Frego provided his comments earlier in the meeting.

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, November 12, 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 Farris, the motion carried (5-0). The meeting was adjourned at 7:21 P.M.

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

Rose Hejl, Secretary

ATTEST:

Joan M. Gorcos, Recording Secretary