

ST. JOHN POLICE COMMISSION

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING JANUARY 14, 2013

The January 2013 Regular Meeting of the Board of Metropolitan Police Commissioners of the Town of St. John was held on January 14, 2013 at 6:30 P.M., as advertised, pursuant to law. Commissioner Dodaro called the meeting to order promptly at 6:30 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, Rose Hejl, and Ronald Vale. Also present were Chief of Police Fred Frego and Town Council Liaison Kenneth Gembala. Commissioners Donald Farris and Robert Long were not present. No legal representation was in attendance at the meeting. Commissioner Dodaro commented that Commissioner Farris recently had surgery and will not be available for the next couple of months.

APPOINTMENTS

Commissioner Dodaro stated he would like to table this item as the Town Council has not made appointments to the Commissions as of this date, as well as the rest of the Commission is not present. Commissioners Hejl and Vale agreed to table this matter until next month's meeting.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MONTH'S MINUTES

December 10, 2012 Regular Meeting - Commissioner Vale made a motion to approve the minutes as written from the December 10, 2012 Regular Meeting. With a second by Commissioner Hejl, 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 December 2012. Chief Frego stated that from December 1, 2012 through December 31, 2012, the members of the St. John Police Department logged 16,317 miles and responded to 485 incidents. The investigation of these incidents led to 29 adult arrests with 41 charges being filed, and 4 juvenile arrests with 4 charges being filed. There were 132 traffic citations issued along with 42 written warnings for a total of 174 citations being issued during the month of December 2012 by the officers of the St. John Police Department. Also during the month of December, vehicle thefts totaled \$9,000.00, and all other thefts totaled \$5,835.00. The total value of recovered property was \$300.00. The total number of citations and warnings issued, through both duty and grant activity, for the month of October was 428. The total number of Citations and Warnings issued, through both duty and

grant activity, for the year to date is 6,693. The total number of traffic stops, through both duty and grant activity, for the month of December was 404. The total number of Traffic Stops year-to-date is 6,860.

OLD BUSINESS

There were no matters of “Old Business” discussed at tonight’s meeting.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Request to Promote to Position of Corporal – Commissioner Dodaro stated the Commission has a request from Chief Frego to promote the next eligible candidate on the Corporal’s Eligibility List to the position of Corporal. Commissioner Hejl made a motion to authorize Chief Frego to promote the next eligible candidate on the Corporal’s Eligibility List to the position of Corporal, with the offer being made to the first person on the list and proceeding down the list until the position is filled. With a second by Commissioner Vale, the motion carried unanimously (3-0).

COPS Grant to Hire a Veteran – Chief Frego requested permission to proceed with hiring an officer through the COPS Grant so that the Department can meet the timeline for putting a School Resource Officer (SRO) in the high school. Chief Frego stated the St. John Town Council, along with the Lake Central School Corporation and the Towns of Dyer and Schererville, have approved the SRO position. Chief Frego stated it is planned to have the SRO in the high school in August for the 2013-2014 School Year. Commissioner Dodaro stated with the Town Council’s approval to accept the COPS Grant to hire a veteran, the Commission needed to begin the process of establishing a list for the hire of a veteran. Town Councilman Gembala stated a term of the Agreement with the Lake Central School Corporation for the SRO is the School Corporation will be included in the interview process for the selection of the officer who will be the SRO. Much discussion then ensued to determine a timeline for the hiring process. As a result of that discussion, the Commission prepared the following agenda for the hiring process:

VETS TO COPS GRANT TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR HIRING PROCESS	
Applications Available	January 16 – 31, 2013
Applications Due	Friday, February 15, 2013 by 4:00 P.M.
Mandatory Orientation	Saturday, February 16, 2013 - 9:00 A.M. St. John Police Department Training Room
Physical Agility / Written Test	Saturday, February 23, 2013 - 9:00 A.M. Location to be determined
Interviews	Week of March 4, 2013

Commissioner Hejl made a motion to proceed in formulating an Eligibility List for hiring a veteran per the conditions of the COPS Grant. With a second by Commissioner Vale, the motion carried unanimously (3-0).

Creation of New Eligibility List – This item has been tabled until the process for hiring a veteran has been completed.

NEW BUSINESS

There were no items of "New Business" at tonight's meeting.

CHIEF'S COMMENTS

Chief Frego advised the Year End Report will be available at next month's meeting. Chief Frego commented Year 2012 was a good year. Chief Frego stated he is hoping 2013 is a better year and with the hiring of an additional officer and putting a SRO in the high school, it will be a better year. Chief Frego stated the ILEAC Accreditation is moving forward, and Sergeant Turturillo is doing a great job, and he already has the first section done. Sergeant Turturillo will be going to Indianapolis next Tuesday for an Accreditation Management Meeting.

ANY AND ALL

Town Councilman Gembala stated he would like to reiterate the fact that the Lake Central School Corporation will need to be included in the Executive Sessions held for the purpose of interviewing the potential candidates for the hiring of an officer through the COPS Grant. This is part of the Agreement with Lake Central regarding the SRO. Chief Frego advised Councilman Gembala the veteran who will be hired through the COPS Grant will not be the officer going into the high school as the SRO. Chief Frego stated one of the Department's existing, current, experienced officers will be selected to be the SRO. Chief Frego commented he has been in contact with the School Corporation regarding this matter, and he promised he will keep the Town Council apprised of all developments.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no matters of "Public Comment."

MEETING SCHEDULE

The next Regular Meeting should be held on Monday, February 11, 2013. The Regular Public Meeting will begin at 6:30 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 motion carried (3-0). The meeting was adjourned at 6:51 P.M.

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

Rose Hejl, Secretary

ATTEST:

Joan M. Gorcos, Recording Secretary