

ST. JOHN POLICE COMMISSION

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING FEBRUARY 11, 2013

The February 2013 Regular Meeting of the Board of Metropolitan Police Commissioners of the Town of St. John was held on February 11, 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 was Chief of Police Fred Frego. Town Council Liaison Kenneth Gembala arrived shortly after roll call was taken. Commissioners Donald Farris and Robert Long were not present. No legal representation was in attendance at the meeting. Commissioner Dodaro commented that Commissioner Farris recovering from surgery and hopefully, he will be present at next month's meeting.

APPOINTMENTS

Commissioner Dodaro stated due to the lack of a full Commission in attendance at tonight's meeting, this matter would be deferred until next month.

ANNUAL TOW MEETING

The following firms had representatives present: St. John Auto, Stan's Towing, Kubiak Service, and Emerald Towing. Mr. Tim Rosinko, of St. John Auto, questioned if it is always necessary to have a tow release in order to let people into their vehicle to remove personal items, because he has been told that without a release, no one is supposed to be allowed to enter the vehicle. Chief Frego stated normally the occupant(s)/owner(s) of the vehicle will contact the Police Department asking if they can retrieve personal items from the vehicle. The Police Department, usually Dispatch, will then contact the appropriate tow firm and advise them that a certain subject is coming to their business and it is okay to allow them to retrieve personal items. Chief Frego stated that this usually pertains to tows due to accidents. However, if there is an arrest involved or an officer has placed a hold on the vehicle, then it is handled differently. Some discussion ensued. Chief Frego advised Mr. Rosinko if he ever has any questions on whether to let someone into a towed vehicle, he should contact the Police Department and ask for direction.

Mr. Joe Kubiak, of Kubiak Service, requested verification regarding whether there must be a tow release for every towed vehicle no matter what the circumstances are. Mr. Kubiak stated he has been told at the scene by officers that he will not need a tow release to release the vehicle. Some discussion ensued. Chief Frego advised that a tow release is always needed, and he would get this matter straightened out internally.

Mr. Tim Rosinko, of St. John Auto, asked the Commission what is the deal with the policemen and firemen escorting all the buses from Lake Central when they win a game or something. Mr. Rosinko stated he has had customers ask him why the Department was doing these escorts, and he just wanted to know what this was all about. Commissioner Dodaro directed this

question to Chief Frego. Chief Frego stated the Department firmly believes in Civic Pride, and when a local team wins a championship, or a sectional or regional, the Department receives requests to escort the team in and/or out of town. Chief Frego stated he has received phone calls as well about the escorts. Councilman Gembala stated the escorts are a practice that has been done for at least 30 years. Some discussion ensued. Mr. Rosinsko commented the escorts are being done at 6:00 P.M., which is one of the worst times to be on US 41 due to the heavy traffic. Mr. Rosinsko further stated he has heard the Town is broke, yet it has the money to provide these escorts. Chief Frego stated the escorts are done in the interest of civic pride, and it does not cost the Town any money to provide the escorts. The officers involved are already on duty and on patrol. More discussion ensued. Chief Frego and the Commission agreed the escorts are reasonable, and they are appreciated by the schools, the children and the families of the children. Mr. Rosinsko stated the escorts were not done when he was in school. Chief Frego stated the Police Department will continue to do the escorts. Commissioner Dodaro stated common sense does prevail wherein should there be an emergency, the officers would be called off the escort and they would immediately respond to the emergency situation. Mr. Rosinsko stated he did not agree with the escorts being conducted. Some discussion ensued.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MONTH'S MINUTES

January 14, 2013 Regular Meeting - Commissioner Vale made a motion to approve the minutes as written from the January 14, 2013 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 January 2013. Chief Frego stated that from January 1, 2013 through January 31, 2013, the members of the St. John Police Department logged 18,879 miles and responded to 474 incidents. The investigation of these incidents led to 27 adult arrests with 44 charges being filed, and 0 juvenile arrests with 0 charges being filed. There were 251 traffic citations issued along with 63 written warnings for a total of 314 citations being issued during the month of January 2013 by the officers of the St. John Police Department. Also during the month of January, vehicle thefts totaled \$0.00, and all other thefts totaled \$2,444.00. The total value of recovered property was \$500.00. The total number of traffic stops for the month of January was 367.

OLD BUSINESS

There were no items of "Old Business."

HUMAN RESOURCES

COPS Grant to Hire a Veteran – Commissioner Dodaro stated the Police Department has received a COPS Grant to Hire a Veteran. The agenda for this process is as follows:

VETS TO COPS GRANT AGENDA FOR HIRING PROCESS	
February 15, 2013	Last day for applicants to turn in their application packets.
February 16, 2013	Mandatory Orientation at 9:00 A.M. to be held in the St. John Police Department Training Room.
February 23, 2013	Physical Agility Test at 9:00 A.M., location to be announced.
March 16, 2013	Written Test at 9:00 A.M. to be held in the St. John Police Department Training Room.

Some discussion ensued regarding reviewing the turned in application packets, and the ordering of Written Test.

NEW BUSINESS

There were no items of “New Business” at tonight’s meeting.

CHIEF’S COMMENTS

Chief Frego advised there were a series of thefts from vehicles and burglaries of garages last week. The Department received a call regarding a suspicious male walking around a complainant’s house. The officers responded to the call and upon arrival, the officers followed tracks in the snow, and did a lot of investigative work, which resulted in the capture of the suspect. The suspect was charged with 9 or 10 felonies. There was a lot of property recovered (i.e., phones, laptops, money, clothes, chargers, etc.). The officers involved in this case did a good job, namely: Corporal J. Dahlin, Officer S. Adams, and Officer E. Andersen.

ANY AND ALL

Commissioner Vale complimented Chief Frego on the Year End Report stating it was excellent. Chief Frego commented the computer keeps the stats and his secretary puts it all together. Some discussion ensued. Chief Frego stated he wanted it noted the Year End Report does not include the Grant Activity conducted throughout the year, nor does it reflect the patrol activities done by the officers for Vacation Checks or Extra Patrols. Chief Frego stated these patrol activities are not truly reflected in the Number of Incidents for the Year. Some discussion ensued regarding the calls per day and the workload of the officers.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no matters of "Public Comment."

MEETING SCHEDULE

The next Regular Meeting should be held on Monday, March 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 Vale made a motion for adjournment. With a second by Commissioner Hejl, the motion carried (3-0). The meeting was adjourned at 6:48 P.M.

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

Rose Hejl, Secretary

ATTEST:

Joan M. Gorcos, Recording Secretary