

ST. JOHN POLICE COMMISSION

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING MARCH 11, 2013

The March 2013 Regular Meeting of the Board of Metropolitan Police Commissioners of the Town of St. John was held on March 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 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 will be released from the doctor later this week, and will be back next month. It should be noted that Commissioner Long did arrive after the meeting was adjourned.

APPOINTMENTS

Commissioner Dodaro suggested the Commission table appointments until next month when all Commissioners would be present. Commissioner Hejl made a motion to table appointments until next month's meeting. With a second by Commissioner Vale, the motion carried unanimously (3-0).

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MONTH'S MINUTES

February 11, 2013 Regular Meeting - Commissioner Vale made a motion to approve the minutes as written from the February 11, 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 February 2013. Chief Frego stated that from February 1, 2013 through February 28, 2013, the members of the St. John Police Department logged 17,675 miles and responded to 428 incidents. The investigation of these incidents led to 25 adult arrests with 41 charges being filed, and 4 juvenile arrests with 6 charges being filed. There were 217 traffic citations issued along with 70 written warnings for a total of 287 citations being issued during the month of February 2013 by the officers of the St. John Police Department. Also during the month of February, vehicle thefts totaled \$0.00, and all other thefts totaled \$50,657.00. The total value of recovered property was \$1,370.00. The total number of traffic stops for the month of February was 329.

Chief Frego explained the large dollar amount on "Other Thefts" is due to a resident in the Saddlecreek Subdivision, who had a service truck that contained a lot of expensive electronic

equipment. This resident reported the theft of that electronic equipment, which was contained in the service truck. The resident indicated he had worked in several Chicago suburbs, and he did not know when the items were stolen. There were no signs of forced entry on the vehicle. The St. John Police Department took the theft report; however, Chief Frego stated he highly doubts the theft occurred in St. John.

OLD BUSINESS

There were no items of "Old Business."

HUMAN RESOURCES

COPS Grant to Hire a Veteran – Commissioner Dodaro stated the Written Test for the applicants is scheduled for this Saturday, March 16, 2013. Regarding the sequestration and funding of the COPS Grant and in response to Commissioner Dodaro's inquiry, Chief Frego stated he received a fax from the COPS Office inquiring about the Department's progress and intentions on the Grant. Chief Frego stated he made a phone call to the COPS Office and informed them that we are currently in the hiring process and everything is being taken care of. Chief Frego stated that hopefully, on completion of the hiring process, the funds will be available. Some discussion ensued regarding an e-mail that Chief Frego received from the COPS Office advising that the Justice Department received a \$1.6 million cut, and part of those cuts were the Grants; however, those cuts only affected Fiscal Year 2013. The Vets to Cops Grant is from the Fiscal Year 2012, so were are not affected by those cuts.

Chief Frego advised he has met with Superintendent Larry Veraco and Principal Robin Tobias, of the Lake Central School Corporation, regarding the School Resource Officer position. Chief Frego stated he sent an e-mail out to the officers requesting all officers interested in the SRO position to submit a resume. Chief Frego stated they will conduct interviews after Spring Break. Chief Frego stated that to date, he has only one (1) officer interested in the position. Some discussion ensued.

Back to the COPS Grant to Hire a Vet, Commissioner Dodaro stated that the results from the written tests should be available in a week to 10 days. At that time, letters will be sent to the applicants and the interviews will be scheduled. Chief Frego stated pending on who the Number 1 candidate is, if they are a certified police officer, the Department could hold off hiring for a little while. Either way, Chief Frego stated they would like to have the new hire in place by the beginning of the school year.

NEW BUSINESS

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

CHIEF'S COMMENTS

Chief Frego advised he had no further comments to make at tonight's meeting.

ANY AND ALL

Town Councilman Gembala stated Animal Control Officer Rick Conaway should receive a Purple Heart after his recent bite from a cat. Mr. Gembala stated Officer Conaway's hand was very swollen from the bite.

Commissioner Dodaro stated the community is very happy with the Police Department, which is always good to hear.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no matters of "Public Comment."

MEETING SCHEDULE

The next Regular Meeting should be held on Monday, April 8, 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 6:39 P.M.

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

Rose Hejl, Secretary

ATTEST:

Joan M. Gorcos, Recording Secretary