

ST. JOHN POLICE COMMISSION

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING JANUARY 13, 2014

The January 2014 Regular Meeting of the Board of Metropolitan Police Commissioners of the Town of St. John was held on January 13, 2014 at 6:30 P.M., as advertised, pursuant to law. Commissioner Hejl 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, Rose Hejl, Robert Long, Ronald Vale, and Frank Chapranda. Also present were Chief of Police Fred Frego and Town Councilman Kenneth Gembala. No legal representation was in attendance at the meeting.

APPOINTMENTS

Appointments of Commissioners – Commissioner Vale made a motion to table Appointments until the time when a fifth Commissioner is added to the Commission. With a second by Commissioner Long, the motion carried (4-0).

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MONTH'S MINUTES

December 16, 2013 Regular Meeting - Commissioner Vale made a motion to approve the minutes as written from the December 16, 2013 Regular Meeting. With a second by Commissioner Long, the motion carried unanimously (4-0).

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 2013. Chief Frego stated that from December 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013, the members of the St. John Police Department logged 15,816 miles and responded to 427 law incidents. The investigation of these incidents led to 11 adult arrests with 15 charges being filed, and 2 juvenile arrests with 4 charges being filed. There were 114 traffic citations issued along with 18 written warnings for a total of 132 citations being issued during the month of December 2013 by the officers of the St. John Police Department. Also during the month of December, vehicle thefts totaled \$0.00, and all other thefts totaled \$6,756.00. The total value of recovered property was \$300.00. The total number of traffic stops for the month of November was 362, for a year-to-date total of 6,562 traffic stops.

Chief Frego explained some changes were made to the monthly report for the Year 2013; specifically, the Incident Classification Report. This report normally indicates the total types of Law Incidents that were handled by the Department for the month; however, Chief Frego advised the Incident Report now includes Traffic Stops, Vacation Checks, and Patrol Notifications. Chief Frego felt by adding these additional incident types to the report, it will reflect true activity of the officers. For example, Chief Frego explained that prior to adding

these activities into the Incident Report, the Department showed we had 54 Vacation Checks for the Year 2013. However, the number 54 only reflects how many Vacation Checks were requested by residents during the Year 2013. Some of these residents are gone anywhere from a week to a couple of months. Meanwhile, the officers are making these checks every day. Prior to this change, the report did not reflect an accurate number indicating officer activity. Also, Chief Frego stated Patrol Notifications, which are Open Garage Door, Dome Light On, etc., were not reflected in this report to show officer activity. Traffic Stops have been indicated in the Monthly Report in the past, but now they have been included in the Incident Report, which shows officer activity.

OLD BUSINESS

There were no matters of "Old Business."

HUMAN RESOURCES

Chief Frego stated Officer D. Wortsman is currently finishing his field training, and he should be released for solo duty shortly.

Chief Frego commented the Department has had staffing problems throughout the later part of 2013, mainly due to the fact Officer D. Oszust has been off on Worker's Compensation since July. As of this time, Chief Frego stated it is not known when Officer Oszust will be returning. Further, he stated Officer Oszust had arthroscopic knee surgery on December 6, 2013, and now he has been informed that Officer Oszust has some type of back problem. Officer Oszust will be meeting with a back doctor as soon as he is released from the knee doctor. Due to Officer Oszust not returning to work, the Department has had to cancel the D.A.R.E. Program for the middle schools. The schools are going to allow the Department to present an alternative program, which will be a 2-3 session program. The Department has selected a second officer to be a D.A.R.E. Officer, who will be sent to training later this year, since it was determined that having more than one D.A.R.E. officer would be beneficial to prevent this type of situation in the future.

NEW BUSINESS

There were no matters of "New Business."

CHIEF'S COMMENTS

Chief Frego informed the Commission that Fire Chief Fred Willman's mother passed away on Friday, January 10, 2014. The wake will be held tomorrow at Elmwood Funeral Chapel, in St. John, from 3:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.

ANY AND ALL

Chief Frego advised he had one more item for the Commission. Chief Frego stated back in June 2013, this Commission approved an Organizational Structure Chart, and there was discussion held at that time regarding what needed to be done to achieve that end. Chief Frego stated he would like to request authorization to conduct a Sergeant's Examination. Commissioner Vale made a motion to authorize Chief Frego to conduct a Sergeant's Examination. With a second by Commissioner Long, the motion carried (3-0-1). Commissioner Chapranda abstained from the vote.

Councilman Gembala stated he would like to comment on the two (2) officers that worked on Monday (January 6, 2014) and especially Tuesday (January 7, 2014). Councilman Gembala stated the storm was over but the road conditions were horrible because the salt was not working, and yet people were out everywhere. The Fire Department had responded to six (6) accidents, and those two (2) officers did a really great job patrolling the accident scenes, taking reports, and helping the Fire Department. Councilman Gembala stated they were out there in the 1963 Suburban, and they really did a good job. Councilman Gembala stated he would like the Commission to be aware of this.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no matters of "Public Comment."

MEETING SCHEDULE

The next Regular Meeting should be held on Monday, February 10, 2014. 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 Chapranda, the motion carried (4-0). The meeting was adjourned at 6:39 P.M.

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

Ronald Vale, Secretary

ATTEST:

Joan M. Gorcos, Recording Secretary