

## **ST. JOHN POLICE COMMISSION**

### **MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING MAY 12, 2014**

The May 2014 Regular Meeting of the Board of Metropolitan Police Commissioners of the Town of St. John was held on May 12, 2014 at 6:30 P.M., as advertised, pursuant to law. Commissioner Vale 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, Ronald Vale, Frank Chapranda, and Paul Haluska. Also present were Chief of Police Fred Frego and Town Councilman Kenneth Gembala. Commissioners Rose Hejl and Robert Long were not present. No legal representation was in attendance at the meeting.

### **APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MONTH'S MINUTES**

**April 14, 2014 Regular Meeting** - Commissioner Chapranda moved to approve the minutes as written from the April 14, 2014 Regular Meeting. With a second by Commissioner Haluska, 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 April 2014. Chief Frego stated that from April 1, 2014 through April 30, 2014, the members of the St. John Police Department logged 19,871 miles and responded to 474 law incidents. The investigation of these incidents led to 19 adult arrests with 33 charges being filed, and 1 juvenile arrest with 1 charge being filed. There were 256 traffic citations issued along with 53 written warnings for a total of 309 citations being issued during the month of April 2014 by the officers of the St. John Police Department. Also during the month of April, vehicle thefts totaled \$16,000.00, and all other thefts totaled \$33,494.00. The total value of recovered property was \$1,200.00.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Police Department's Accreditation Process** – Chief Frego advised the Department is almost done with the writing of the new policies, and the next step will be to adopt the new policies. Chief Frego felt the Commission would like to have a discussion whether to adopt all the policies at one time. In response to Commissioner Haluska's query, Chief Frego stated there would be a mock audit in June. Commissioner Haluska recommended a mock audit prior to the actual audit and before adopting the policies. By doing so, Commissioner Haluska stated the policies could be tweaked whichever way that is needed. Chief Frego stated they will make sure the standards have been met, and he commented that there are 80 more policies coming next month.

Chief Frego stated there are many similarities between ILEAC and CALEA accreditation. Commissioner Haluska agreed both accreditations are very similar with the ILEAC policies being more condensed. Chief Frego and Commissioner Haluska agreed the accreditation is all about accountability and creditability, and it is good faith defense against litigation. Chief Frego advised after adoption, all officers will be trained regarding the new policies. Chief Frego advised the Commission their input is welcome regarding the policies. Some discussion ensued.

Chief Frego stated there are currently 172 new standards and in June, there will be an additional 80 new standards (policies). Chief Frego stated "Communications" has a large number of policies; however, with the 911 Consolidation coming, they have chosen not to go with those policies. Chief Frego advised the Town of St. John has not yet signed the agreement regarding the Consolidation, and he stated he was not sure how that was going to affect St. John. Some discussion ensued.

Chief Frego further commented St. John cannot do its own digital system as there are no digital frequencies left. Lake County has all the digital frequencies. Chief Frego commented that Policies and Procedures are currently being formed regarding the Consolidation but right now, St. John is not a part of that. Chief Frego stated his greatest fear is that the Town signs on in the eleventh hour, and then we are given an agreement and just have to go with it. Commissioner Haluska stated his biggest concern is Human Resources or the hiring process and what the Town is going to get out of it.

Chief Frego advised the facility for the 911 Consolidation will not be done by January 1, 2015. On January 1, 2015, all dispatchers who apply and get hired reference the 911 Consolidation will become County employees. All the current radio rooms in the various departments will still have to be manned until the new facility is running. Chief Frego stated an ideal situation for St. John would be for all of St. John's current dispatchers to apply and get hired by County, and then they would be able to remain at St. John during the interim period. However, that is not going to happen as several of them have told Chief Frego they are not going to apply at County. Chief Frego stated the Town does not know what they are going to get to man the radio room until the new facility becomes operational, and then there is going to be a training issue for those County employees who will be manning the St. John radio room during the interim period. The Consolidation is only seven (7) short months away. Commissioners Vale and Haluska agreed it was going to be a rocky road ahead, and they both commented they had concerns.

Some discussion ensued regarding the Consolidation and the amount of control Chief Frego will have over the County employees. Chief Frego stated he would have only one (1) vote. In response to Commissioner Haluska's question, Chief Frego advised the firing of any County employee manning the St. John radio room would have to be done by County. Chief Frego stated they are working through this, and his idea, which he expressed to Town Council President M. Forbes, is to train in-house personnel (Reserve Officers, full-time officers) to work the radio because we do not know what we are going to get from County to work the radio room.

### **HUMAN RESOURCES**

**New Hire** – Chief Frego advised Officer Ronald Olson was sworn in at the Town Council's Regular Meeting scheduled for Thursday, April 24, 2014, at 7:00 P.M., and he is currently in the

FTO Program and doing well. He is a certified officer who was born and raised in St. John, so he knows a lot of the Town's geography. Chief Frego stated everything he hears is that Officer Olson is progressing satisfactorily.

**Sergeant's Test** – Chief Frego stated that to date, he has only received one (1) resume from an officer interested in partaking in the test. Chief Frego stated he will be contacting the other two (2) eligible officers tomorrow to see what their intentions are.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

There were no matters of "New Business."

### **CHIEF'S COMMENTS**

Chief Frego stated he did not know whether the Commission was aware of the fact the Town Council purchased a pickup truck for the Police Department. The truck is going to be picked up tomorrow and it will be going to the Paint Shop as it is going to be a marked vehicle. Corporal Rudzinski is interested in having this new vehicle. Corporal Rudzinski currently has a new vehicle, but this vehicle will better suit his needs. Some discussion ensued regarding the Department's Chevy Suburban.

### **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, June 9, 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 Haluska moved for adjournment. With a second by Commissioner Chapranda, the motion carried (3-0). The meeting was adjourned at 6:41 P.M.

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

---

Paul Haluska, Secretary

ATTEST:

---

Joan M. Gorcos, Recording Secretary