

ST. JOHN POLICE COMMISSION

MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING JULY 14, 2014

The July 2014 Regular Meeting of the Board of Metropolitan Police Commissioners of the Town of St. John was held on July 14, 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, Paul Haluska, and Rose Hejl. Also present were Chief of Police Fred Frego and Town Councilman Kenneth Gembala. Commissioner Robert Long was not present due to a medical condition. No legal representation was in attendance at the meeting.

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MONTH'S MINUTES

June 9, 2014 Regular Meeting - Commissioner Chapranda moved to approve the minutes as written from the June 9, 2014 Regular Meeting. With a second by Commissioner Haluska, the motion carried unanimously (4-0).

CORRESPONDENCE / COMMUNICATIONS

There were no items of "Correspondence / Communications" brought up at tonight's meeting.

POLICE DEPARTMENT'S MONTHLY REPORT

Chief Frego read the monthly report for June 2014. Chief Frego stated that from June 1, 2014 through June 30, 2014, the members of the St. John Police Department logged 17,896 miles and responded to 505 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 229 traffic citations issued along with 59 written warnings for a total of 288 citations being issued during the month of June 2014 by the officers of the St. John Police Department. Also during the month of May, vehicle thefts totaled \$0.00, and all other thefts totaled \$23,176.00. The total value of recovered property was \$0.00.

OLD BUSINESS

Police Department's Accreditation Process – Chief Frego advised the policies have been completed, and they are ready for adoption. Chief Frego advised it is time to begin gathering proofs; however, the policies must be adopted in order to implement them. Chief Frego asked if this was the Commission's pleasure, then when were they going to adopt the policies? Commissioner Haluska queried if there was a distinct possibility the policies would have to be re-written after adoption. Chief Frego stated the policies would not have to be re-written after adoption because the policies have been checked for compliance as they were being written. Calls were made to ILEAC for direction regarding any policies where there were questions. Chief Frego stated it was his hope the Commissioners would review the policies and notify him of any changes they felt needed. Chief Frego stated the Accreditation is in limbo right now because they cannot move forward until the policies have been adopted and implemented.

Chief Frego commented they had hoped to conduct the mock assessment in November so that they could continue moving forward with the Accreditation.

Commissioner Haluska inquired about the 80 new policies that were coming. Chief Frego advised they are still waiting for the other 80 policies to come out. They were supposed to be out in June, but they are still waiting for them.

Commissioner Hejl stated this is the third meeting the Commission has discussed the adoption of the policies for the Accreditation. At the meeting before last, Chief Frego asked if the Commission was going to adopt all the policies at once or not, and Commissioner Hejl stated she does not believe the Chairman decided what the Commission should do or what plan they were going to put together. Commissioner Hejl asked what the Commission was going to do reference the adoption of the policies, especially since the mock assessment is coming up in November. Commissioner Hejl stated this entailed a lot of reading to be done. Commissioner Vale asked Chief Frego if the Commission could be provided with something that indicated which policies had changed; because it was his understanding that some of the policies had not changed. Chief Frego stated he could provide the Commission with a list of all the current policies that are going to be removed, which will be replaced by new policies. Some of the old policies fit the standards, and we were able to retain those policies. Chief Frego stated the only thing that has to be done now is to gather proofs of all the policies. Proofs are evidence that the policies, which have been adopted, are being practiced and followed (i.e. Vehicle Inspections, Evidence Procedures, etc.). The proofs are a requirement of the Accreditation.

Commissioner Haluska stated if the Commission could get a list of current policies that already meet the criteria for Accreditation, then there would be no need for the Commission to review those standards as they are already in place. If Chief Frego could provide the Commission with that list, Commissioner Haluska stated it would save the Commission a little bit of time. Chief Frego stated he could get a list, from Sergeant J. Turturillo, of the policies that already meet the criteria for Accreditation, as well as a list of the policies that are being removed and replaced with new policies. Commissioner Vale stated once they had the lists, he would call an Executive Session and move forward with the Accreditation. Chief Frego stated the Commission would still have to adopt the policies at a public meeting. Some discussion ensued. Chief Frego stated he could have the lists from Sergeant Turturillo within a couple of days. Commissioner Vale asked Chief Frego to let him know when he has the lists, and then he would schedule an Executive Session regarding this matter. After some discussion, the Commission decided they would call a Work Study Session to review the policies, and then a Special Meeting in which to adopt the policies.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Sergeant's Test – Chief Frego stated the Sergeant's Test is scheduled for Saturday, September 27, 2014. The text books and study guides for the test were acquired and distributed on June 18, 2014, to the three (3) corporals who will be taking the test. There are five (5) text books; however, the study guides do not require the officer to read all five (5) text books in their entirety.

Additional Human Resource Matter – Chief Frego advised Officer David Oszust was injured on-duty on July 12, 2013. Officer Oszust has been off work on Workman's Compensation, and he is still off on Workman's Compensation. According to the Town of St. John Police

Department's Policies and Procedures, Officer Oszust will only be paid for one (1) year on Workman's Compensation. After one (1) year, Officer Oszust needs to apply to PERF for disability. At this time, Chief Frego stated he does not know Officer Oszust's current status. Chief Frego commented Officer Oszust had an appointment last week for evaluation but at this time, the results of that evaluation, and the status of the report, are not known. The evaluation report will go down state to Officer Oszust's treating physician in Indianapolis, a Dr. Schwartz. Based on that evaluation, Dr. Schwartz will make a recommendation (i.e., 25% disabled, 50% disabled, etc.). Officer Oszust has some issues resulting from the accident.

Chief Frego stated he just wanted to make the Commission aware that as of July 28, 2014, Officer Oszust will no longer be paid by the St. John Police Department. Chief Frego stated he counseled Officer Oszust on this matter and gave him a letter, dated May 30, 2014, suggesting he seek assistance from PERF and to date, he has not heard anything back from Officer Oszust. Some discussion ensued.

NEW BUSINESS

There were no matters of "New Business."

CHIEF'S COMMENTS

Chief Frego had no further comments.

ANY AND ALL

Councilman Gembala advised the Town of St. John was rated as the #4 Safest Place to Live in the State of Indiana. Councilman Gembala stated he felt St. John earned that rating due to the good Police Department that St. John has, as well as the good Police Administration and Police Commission. Chief Frego stated St. John was rated the #1 safest place to live in Lake County and #4 in the State of Indiana. Crown Point was rated #8 in the State, and Munster was rated #10 in the State. Carmel, Fishers and Zion were ahead of St. John as safest places to live in the State of Indiana. Some discussion ensued.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no matters of "Public Comment."

MEETING SCHEDULE

The next Regular Meeting should be held on Monday, August 11, 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 Chapranda moved for adjournment. With a second by Commissioner Haluska, the motion carried (4-0). The meeting was adjourned at 6:42 P.M.

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

Paul Haluska, Secretary

ATTEST:

Joan M. Gorcos, Recording Secretary