

## **ST. JOHN POLICE COMMISSION**

### **MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING JANUARY 12, 2015**

The January 2015 Regular Meeting of the Board of Metropolitan Police Commissioners of the Town of St. John was held on January 12, 2015 immediately following the Executive Session held at 6:30 P.M., as advertised, pursuant to law. Commissioner Hejl called the meeting to order promptly at 7:06 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, Paul Haluska, Charles Sawyer, Robert Long, and Kevin Vana. Also present were Chief of Police Fred Frego, Town Councilman Kenneth Gembala, and Attorney David Austgen.

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

**November 11, 2014 Regular Meeting** - Commissioner Haluska moved to approve the minutes as written from the November 11, 2014 Regular Meeting. With a second by Commissioner Sawyer, the motion carried unanimously (5-0).

### **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 December 2014. Chief Frego stated that from December 1, 2014 through December 31, 2014, the members of the St. John Police Department logged 15,975 miles and responded to 426 law incidents. The investigation of these incidents led to 16 adult arrests with 30 charges being filed, and 2 juvenile arrests with 3 charges being filed. There were 115 traffic citations issued along with 39 written warnings for a total of 154 citations being issued during the month of December 2014 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 \$273.00. The total value of recovered property was \$0.00.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

**Police Department's Accreditation Process** – Chief Frego stated he was glad to report the Department is in the final stages of the Accreditation Process, and are currently awaiting the mock assessment, which will probably occur next month. The proofs are in order, and he anticipates to be "good to go" by March.

### **HUMAN RESOURCES**

Chief Frego requested the Commission's approval to promote the next officer on the Eligibility List for Corporals; specifically, Detective Steven Flores. Chief Frego stated Detective Flores is a 10-year veteran of the St. John Police Department, who is currently assigned to the Investigations Division, and he is the only investigator the department has. Steve has been in

Investigations for 2-1/2 years. Chief Frego stated Detective Flores has everything it takes; he requires little to no supervision, he is a natural leader, he is dedicated and loyal, and he is a good investigator. Detective Flores is good at what he does, and this is a way to reward him. Chief Frego stated he believes Officer Flores is a future leader of tomorrow. Before the Eligibility List for Corporals expires, Chief Frego stated he would like to promote Detective Flores to Corporal. Commissioner Haluska inquired as to whether Detective Flores, if promoted, would be taken out of Investigations and returned to Patrol. Chief Frego advised no; Detective Flores would remain in Investigations. Commissioner Haluska moved to approve the promotion of Detective Steven Flores to the rank of Corporal. With a second by Commissioner Long, the motion carried (5-0). Chief Frego thanked the Commission for their support in this matter and commented Officer Flores did not know of the Chief's intentions to promote him, and he would be really surprised. Some discussion ensued.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Chief Frego queried whether the Commission had to appoint officers to the Commission for the new year. Since the Commission had appointed officers in the November 2014 meeting, Attorney Austgen suggested the Commission make a motion to ratify the appointments made in November 2014 for the Year 2015. Commissioner Haluska moved to ratify the officer appointments made in November 2014 to be carried through the Year 2015. With a second by Commissioner Long, the motion carried (5-0).

### **CHIEF'S COMMENTS**

Chief Frego stated he would like to thank this Commission for another successful year and for their support during 2014. Chief Frego stated all the officers of the Department have good work ethics, and the new officers are doing well. The Department's newest officer, Ronald Olson, will be finishing up his probationary period shortly. Chief Frego stated he was looking forward to moving ahead in 2015 and getting a few more things done that they had originally set out to do. In response to Commissioner Vana's query, Chief Frego advised the length of the probationary period for an officer is one (1) year.

Chief Frego commented the Town of St. John has signed the agreement with County reference the 911 Consolidation.

### **ANY AND ALL**

In response to Commissioner Hejl's query, Chief Frego advised the Annual Tow Meeting will be held at next month's Regular Meeting, as well as the Year End Report will also be available at that time.

Councilman Gembala commented the Town of St. John was recently recognized as one of the "Top 20 Towns in the Country for Safest Place to Raise Children." This information can be found on a website believed to be called "Nerve Wallet" out of California. Chief Frego advised the Town of St. John was recently rated the #4 safest town in the State of Indiana, and the #1 safest town in Lake County, Indiana.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

There were no matters of "Public Comment."

**MEETING SCHEDULE**

The next Regular Meeting should be held on Monday, February 9, 2015. 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 Sawyer moved for adjournment. With a second by Commissioner Haluska, the motion carried (5-0). The meeting was adjourned at 7:15 P.M.

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

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Charles Sawyer, Secretary

ATTEST:

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Joan M. Gorcos, Recording Secretary