

ST. JOHN POLICE COMMISSION MEETING
10955 WEST 93RD AVENUE, ST. JOHN, INDIANA 46373
MAY 11, 2015 – REGULAR MEETING

The May 2015 Regular Meeting of the Board of Metropolitan Police Commissioners of the Town of St. John was held on May 11, 2015 at 6:30 P.M., as advertised, pursuant to law.

Commissioner Hejl called the meeting to order 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: Rose Hejl, Paul Haluska, Charles Sawyer, and Kevin Vana. Also present were Chief of Police Fred Frego and Town Councilman Kenneth Gembala. Commissioner Robert Long and Attorney David Austgen were absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

March 9, 2015 Regular Meeting - Commissioner Sawyer made a motion to approve the minutes as provided from the March 9, 2015 Regular Meeting. With a second by Commissioner Vana, the motion carried unanimously (4-0).

CORRESPONDENCE / COMMUNICATIONS

Commissioner Hejl advised there were no items of “Correspondence / Communications” for tonight’s meeting.

POLICE DEPARTMENT’S MONTHLY REPORT

Chief Frego read the monthly report for April 2015. Chief Frego stated from April 1, 2015 through April 30, 2015, the members of the St. John Police Department logged 16,094 miles and responded to 431 law incidents. The investigation of these incidents led to 18 adult arrests with 26 charges being filed and 4 juvenile arrests with 4 charges being filed. There were 195 traffic citations issued, along with 65 written warnings, for a total of 260 citations being issued during the month of April 2015 by the officers of the St. John Police Department. Vehicle thefts totaled \$0.00. Other thefts totaled \$5,995.00. Recovered property totaled \$0.00.

OLD BUSINESS

Police Department’s Accreditation Process – Chief Frego advised the Department is three-quarters of the way through gathering proofs for the Accreditation.

Chief Frego further stated that Department has been in contact with ILEAC in Carmel, Indiana; namely Mike Dixon. The initial mock assessment will be done online through Power DMS. Chief Frego commented the ILEAC people in Carmel have access to all the documents the St. John Police Department has entered into Power DMS, and they can view and approve the proofs that are currently being gathered.

Chief Frego commented there are still a few officers who need to finish testing on the policies. Chief Frego advised everyone has to read all the policies and take the tests that follow as part of the proofs for the Accreditation.

Chief Frego said it has been a long process, but it is going along well. There were no questions from the Commissioners.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Request for Promotion of Officer to Corporal and Discussion on Filling the Vacant Commander's Position – Chief Frego stated the retirement of Sergeant (Commander) Michael Fryzel has created two (2) open spots. Chief Frego advised the Department currently has an Interim Commander, which is Sergeant David Demeter. Chief Frego stated Sergeant Demeter was a Patrol Supervisor prior to filling in as the Interim Commander, and now his crew is minus a supervisor.

Chief Frego advised he is requesting to accept the next name on the Corporal's Eligibility List, which is Michael Moffitt, and promote him to Corporal to fill the open spot. Chief Frego advised Officer Moffitt is a nine (9) year veteran, an excellent officer, has an excellent record, and he leads the department in arrests, and he is certainly deserving of this promotion.

Chief Frego stated he would also like to request the Commission's approval to elevate Sergeant Demeter to the appointed rank of Commander. Chief Frego explained the rank of Commander is not a tested rank; it is an appointed rank granted by the Police Commission and himself. Chief Frego stated he recommends the Commission consider granting the appointment.

Commissioner Hejl advised she would entertain a motion to promote Officer Michael Moffitt to the rank of Corporal. Commissioner Haluska moved to promote Officer Michael Moffitt to the rank of Corporal. With a second by Commissioner Sawyer, the motion carried unanimously (4-0).

Commissioner Hejl stated she would entertain a motion to promote Sergeant Demeter to the rank of Commander. Discussion ensued to clarify that the rank of Commander is an appointed position, and not a permanent merit rank position. Commissioner Sawyer moved to promote Sergeant David Demeter to the rank of Commander. With a second by Commissioner Vana, the motion carried unanimously (4-0).

Chief Frego thanked the Commission.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Hejl advised there were no items under "New Business."

CHIEF OF POLICE COMMENTS

Chief Frego stated he already commented on the ongoing Accreditation process, and advised it is going well. Chief Frego advised everything else is going pretty good. Chief Frego mentioned the Department has a couple of new cars ordered. He stated the Department has been in the process of rotating the fleet vehicles, and he felt they were in pretty good shape.

ANY AND ALL

There were no matters of “Any and All.”

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Joseph Hero, of 11723 S. Oakridge Drive, St. John, Indiana, stated that he submitted a Public Access Form for police commission minutes to the Clerk-Treasurer’s Office and has not received a response. Mr. Hero asked the Commission to check with the Town Manager and Clerk-Treasurer’s Office in regards to his request.

Mr. Hero further inquired as to the status of all the lawsuits and allegations against the sworn officer. Commissioner Haluska also stated the Commission cannot comment on those matters.

Chief Frego then advised the Commission that Mr. Hero asked the same questions at the Town Council Meeting, and the response from the Town’s Attorney and the Town Council President was that we cannot discuss it because it is under litigation. Mr. Hero stated the Commission has given him no response. Commissioner Hejl stated the Commission has a response and it is, “No comment.”

Commissioner Sawyer stated they are going to proceed based on the advice of their attorney. Mr. Hero asked if the Commission’s attorney was Attorney Austgen. Commissioner Sawyer stated that was correct. Mr. Hero stated he got the answer that he expected.

MEETING SCHEDULE

The next Regular Meeting should be held on Monday, June 8, 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 Haluska made a motion for adjournment. With a second by Commissioner Vana, 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

Rose Hejl, Chairman

ATTEST:

Charles Sawyer, Secretary