

POLICE COMMISSION MINUTES

February 7, 2014

8:00 A.M.

IN ATTENDANCE: George E. Kennedy– Police Commission Chairman
Robert Peter Guip – Police Commissioner
Joseph Petruch – Chief of Police
James Donohue – Assistant Chief of Police

Commissioner Kennedy asked everyone to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and to remain standing afterwards for the invocation by Chaplain Randy Scott.

ITEM I Motion was made to accept the minutes of the Police Commission Meeting dated January 3, 2014 as presented.

Commissioner Kennedy stated all in favor signify by saying, “Aye.”
All replied, “Aye.”

Commissioner Kennedy stated, “Opposed, same sign.”

Commissioner Kennedy stated, “Motion carries.”

ITEM II STATISTICS REPORT

The Chief of Police presented the 2013 Annual Report. He stated that the year showed only a slight rise of most major crimes, except for residential burglaries. Chief did note that although residential burglaries increased, more suspects were apprehended, more arrests were made, and more cases were closed. Homicides and rapes reported were down. No fatalities were reported for auto accidents. Chief praised the officers for the traffic enforcement done, evident by the 9,549 tickets written for the year. The Chief of Police stated that this was especially noteworthy since the department is small and has no established traffic division and does not diminish officers’ responsibility to respond to Calls for Service which total 21,261 for the year.

Chief Petruch presented the Monthly Statistical Report for December 2013. The Chief of Police stated that the statistics remain steady, but a drop in citations was noted. This was due to severe weather conditions, in which public safety became priority rather than traffic enforcement.

ITEM III

LETTERS OF CORRESPONDENCE

Chief Petruch presented a Letter of Resignation from Officer Schrock whose last day of work would be on February 14, 2014. Chief commended Officer Schrock's excellent service for the last 12 years of which Officer Schrock was a member of the K-9 unit, Motorcycle Patrol, Accident Investigation Team as well as a Firearm Instructor.

Chief Petruch presented a Letter of Resignation from part-time radio operator Laura Seegers.

Chief Petruch presented a letter from Hobart Chief of Police Rick Zormier who praised Officer Shaw for locating a suspect vehicle at a local hotel. Hobart Detective Wardrip was unable to make contact with the suspect before he left the hotel. Officer Shaw then located the vehicle in the area and conducted a traffic stop. This led to an arrest of the suspect, who was charged with 3 counts of Felony Burglary.

Chief Petruch presented a Level I Letter of Commendation from Commander Kijurna for Officer Shaw for his participation in apprehending the Hobart burglary suspect.

Chief Petruch presented a Letter of Commendation from Commander Kijurna for Officers David Degard, Mike Bunnell, Curtis Minchuk, Jason Chorba and Cpl Lance Schmidt. These officers responded to a Burglary in Progress call on January 27, 2014, and located 25 lbs of marijuana in the residence that had a street value of \$30,000.

ITEM IV

OLD BUSINESS

NONE

ITEM V

NEW BUSINESS

It was noted that testing process for the New Promotion List would begin.

Merrillville Police Department Rules and Regulations, Section 26 Duties of the Special Services Officer.

Chief stated the Rules and Regulations had been updated along with the verbiage.

Commissioner Guip made a motion to accept Merrillville Police Department Rules and Regulations, Section 26, Duties of the Special Services Officer as written and was seconded by Commissioner Kennedy.

Commissioner Kennedy asked if there was any discussion.

Commissioner Kennedy requested that Chief Petruch take a roll call vote.

Chief Petruch took a roll call vote.

Commissioner Guip, "Aye"

Commissioner Kennedy, "Aye"

Commissioner Kennedy stated, "Two Ayes, and the motion carries."

Application Fee for Police Officer Applications

It was requested that a Letter to the Town Council be made requesting the creation of a Town Ordinance requiring a \$25 fee for any submitted Police Officer Application. This fee would be deposited into the Continuing Education Fund in order to defer administration cost of processing applicants.

Commissioner Guip made a motion to accept Letter to the Town Council be made requesting the creation of a Town Ordinance requiring a \$25 fee and was seconded by Commissioner Kennedy.

Commissioner Kennedy asked if there was any discussion.

Commissioner Kennedy requested that Chief Petruch take a roll call vote.

Chief Petruch took a roll call vote.

Commissioner Guip, "Aye"

Commissioner Kennedy, "Aye"

Commissioner Kennedy stated, "Two Ayes, and the motion carries."

AS THERE WAS NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING WAS ADJOURNED.