

**PORTER METROPOLITAN POLICE COMMISSION
MINUTES**

SEPTEMBER 16, 2008

The Porter Police Commission meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. In attendance were Karen Pisowicz, President; William Donley, Vice-President; Linda Hodges, Commissioner; Police Chief Jamie Spanier, Assistant Todd Allen and Town Council Liaison Jon Granat. Chesterton Police Lt. Dave Lohse was a guest speaker.

After the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, Pisowicz asked to vary the agenda and let Lohse give his presentation first.

Lohse presented a schedule of the Operation Pullover grant. Typically there are two week period, four in all. These grants are sponsored by the National Highway Traffic Safety through the Governor's Council. This money all comes from the Federal Government. Currently there is a Northern Porter Co, Traffic Safety Partnership which includes Chesterton, Ogden Dunes and Burns Harbor. Chesterton currently holds the grant but can share it with smaller communities. Chesterton has participated in this grant program for two years. Statistics show that in 05-06 they had 53 DUIs; first year of the grant they had 89 DUI's. The following year it went up to 113 DUI's.

Typically, the officers that go on these patrols do nothing but the grant program. Before the grant, seat belt non-compliance was 40; next year was 190 and year to date 180. The typical grant requirements are 3 contacts an hour including warnings and citations. Donley asked Spanier if the Porter department is interested and Spanier stated this has been a goal for a little while now. The fiscal year for the grant is October to October and Porter would like to be included in the next grant. Allen noted two officers have completed the two requirements to be eligible to participate. Hodges asked if State Police are involved and Lohse stated they have different grants and County opted out of the program. Pisowicz asked how often these grants are given and Lohse stated every year based on the four two week periods.

Hodges made a motion to accept the August 19, 2008 minutes. Donley seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

In his monthly reports Spanier stated they are still busy and had a little spike when school started and it hasn't slowed down yet. Donley asked if there is a speed limit for people using the alleys and Spanier said he would check but he believes its 5 mph. Hodges brought up legal requirements for mopeds: 15 years old is minimum age, have to have a state ID, have to wear a helmet and eye protection. A moped can't be more than 50cc, can't be more than 2 horsepower and can't be designed from the factory to go over 25 mph. If you are over 18, you don't need a helmet. Granat started he sees kids very day without a helmets. Bicycles have to follow all the same rules of the road that automobiles do.

Spanier also mentioned the Porter Police came in third in a design contest in Law and Order magazine for departments from 10 to 50 officers East of the Mississippi. Signature Graphics helped design the cars and placed the badge inside the O in Police.

Under New Business, Allen came up with the wording regarding tattoos. Pisowicz read section D. Donley made the comment he felt tattoos were alright. Hodges made a motion to accept this insertion and to thank Todd for doing this. Pisowicz seconded. Donley no. Motion carried 2-1.

There were no public comments.

Pisowicz asked Lohse if Chesterton has a tattoo policy and they don't.

Granat asked if it would be possible to have a bicycle rodeo in the spring. Further discussion the commission and Chief agreed this might be a good idea.

Meeting adjourned 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Rita Newman, Secretary

Minutes approved this _____ of October, 2008.

Karen Pisowicz, President

William Donley, Vice President

Linda Hodges, Commissioner

Attest _____
Rita Newman