

PORTER POLICE COMMISSION
MINUTES

April 18, 2006

The Porter Police Commission meeting was called to order at 6p.m. In attendance were Linda Hodges, President; William Donley, Vice-President; and Commissioners Brian Dahlin, Arthur Heredia and Karen Pisowicz. Also in attendance were Police Chief James Spanier and Town Council Liaison Jennifer Granat. Hodges asked Donley to chair the meeting.

Pisowicz made a motion to accept the March 21, 2006 minutes. Hodges seconded. Motion carried.

During his monthly reports, Chief Spanier noted that it's starting to get a little busier. The 3 summer months are the busiest with a spike when school lets out and a spike when school starts. Heredia asked if notice to drivers could be put in the paper to ask people to slow down when school is out.

Under Old Business: Granat stated she spoke with Jim Mandon and the attorney regarding the parking ordinance and noted it is in the attorney's hand right now.

Regarding Dispatcher Rules, Spanier asked if everyone had reviewed them. All had. Donley asked what the echo procedure is and Spanier explained it's when an officer calls to the dispatcher the dispatcher then repeats what the officer stated. Dahlin asked if when answering 911 calls, it should be Town of Porter 911 since there are so many Porters being used by various facilities. Dispatchers will answer Porter Police. Dahlin made a motion to accept the Dispatcher Rules and Procedures with the revisions he recommended. Pisowicz seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Under the Taser Policy, Spanier said changes made were in bold type. Heredia asked if a Taser was available for all shifts. Answer is no. Everyone is trained except Spanier and Detective Veal. Heredia made a motion to accept the Taser Policy. Dahlin seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Regarding Sign Ordinance Penalties, the ordinance is on the books but there are no penalties. The Building Commission will work with the police on this to re-work the existing ordinance. Sign Ordinance Penalties is no longer a concern of the Police Commission and will be removed from further agendas.

Porter Police Commission Minutes
April 18, 2006
Page Two

Regarding traffic at US 20 and Waverly Road, Dahlin reported it is just a matter of scheduling a meeting with Rep. Charlie Brown, Commissioner Sharp and himself. He hopes to have more information by the next commission meeting. This is still a work in progress.

Tri-State Disaster Plan: Donley had nothing to say about this at this time. Spanier reported that NIMS training is to start next month. Heredia had passed out a letter listing the 5 most common questions for NIMS training. Not only to all first responders have to be NIMS trained, but all elected officials. As a commission Heredia suggested they all become NIMS trained.

Heredia asked if the computer system is working. Spanier stated not quite yet, no hard drives, but should be done very shortly.

Under New Business: Budget Workshop, according to Granat, has been put on hold. Department head are meeting with Town Clerk Carol Pomeroy it will procede from there. Hodges reminded Granat the commission wants to be invited to this workshop.

There were no public comments.

Under Liaison Comments, Granat noted there will definately be budget reductions for all departments. Concerning the police department, cars need to be repaired and officers haven't had new uniforms in 2 years. It was discussed by the Town Council to reduce the police commission from 5 to 3 because of budget considerations. Hodges brought up voluntary resignations, turning over salary to the department, donating commissioner salaries to the police. Grant will check with the Town Council regarding these suggestions.

Under Commissioner Comments, Heredia didn't realize the uniforms were so badly needed. If the officers have a clothing allowance they are not bound to buy clothing. Another alternative is for the department to buy the clothing. Heredia proposed an "Adopt a Cop" program into the community to make them aware of the uniform crises. Granat was asked to present this at the next Council meeting.

Heredia also requested the Commission draft a letter of praise for James Menn for his years of service to be presented at the next meeting. Hodges asked Heredia to draft this letter. Heredia asked if a replacement is in the works. Spanier said not at this time.

Porter Police Commission Minutes
April 18, 2006
Page Three

There was discussion regarding one of the part-time officers to upgrade his weapon by January 1, 2006 as suggested, by Heredia. Spanier said no since he might just leave the department and we would lose a very valuable officer.

Dahlin asked how salary would be based when replacing Menn. Dahlin also asked about putting beach permits in rear window instead of front window. The attorney has this recommendation. Regarding replacing Menn, the salary would be based on rank.

Meeting adjourned 7:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Rita Newman
Rita Newman

Minutes approved this 16 day of May, 2006

Linda Hodges
Linda Hodges, President

William Donley
William Donley, Vice-President

Brian Dahlin, Commissioner

Arthur Heredia

Karen Pisowicz
Karen Pisowicz, Commissioner

Attest: Rita Newman
Rita Newman