

PORTER POLICE COMMISSION  
MINUTES

May 17, 2005

The Porter Police Commission was called to order at 6:03 p.m. In attendance were William Donley, President; Linda Hodges, Vice-President; Commissioners Brian Dahlin, Art Heredia and Karen Pisowicz, Police Chief James Spanier and Town Council Liaison Jennifer Granat.

Before making a motion to accept the April 19, 2005 minutes, Brian Dahlin asked that under New Business regarding beach permits on back windows that the rationale behind this suggestion was that police spend a great deal of time checking front window permits. Linda Hodges seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Chief Spanier submitted the monthly report and mileage report. Regarding training, Sgt. Torok received a refresher safety course. Cpl. McMahon received recertification on breathalyzer tests; Det. Veal went to Northwest Indiana Law Enforcement Academy and received a thank you for training police officers there. Officer Biggs is going to ride a train with Indiana Operation Life Saver on May 18, to observe the engineer's view at train crossings and possible cars going around gates. Cpl. McMahon will attend Indiana Law Enforcement Academy sexual assault training on June 15 & 16. The department usually does not do training in summer but this is an exception with no cost to the department other than meals and lodging.

Art Heredia asked Chief Spanier if officers who are trained in specific areas could return and advise other officers what they learned. Chief Spanier stated it probably wouldn't be easy to pass on information to the other officers.

Regarding the amount of 911 calls, Chief Spanier blames the cell phone companies for giving out 916, 918 exchanges .

Under Old Business: Asst. Chief Jim Menn has been in touch with Jim Kaur, State of Indiana Dept. of Highways regarding a traffic study at US 20 and Waverly Road. They have agreed to do a study on this intersection as long as they receive a letter from the Police Commission. Chief Spanier submitted a draft of a letter for approval and it was determined that the statistics for 2003, 2004 and 2005 to date be included in the body of the letter. ~~CONSENSUS~~ *BRIAN DAHLIN REQUESTED THAT THESE STATISTICS BE INCLUDED IN THE BODY OF THE LETTER. IT WAS A CONSENSUS OF THE COMMISSION TO DO THIS.*

Under New Business: Possible promotion of Sgt. John Lane to Lieutenant, Chief Spanier first passed out copies of Resolution of Appreciation from the Town Council for his service as Chief from July 15, 2003 until November 16, 2004. Chief Spanier then requested the Commissioners promote Sgt. Lane to Lieutenant and outline the many things he has done for the department. Liaison Granat also added other things Sgt. Lane did for the Town of Porter. There was discussion regarding the budget and this will be addressed when doing the 2006 budget. Art Heredia and Brian Dahlin felt that any promotions ~~should be done~~ <sup>CONSIDERED</sup> in Executive Session. Linda Hodges made a motion to accept John Lane as Lieutenant. Karen Pisowicz seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

There were no comments from the public.

Liaison Granat stated that Town Council attorney Hollenbeck obtained a copy of Valparaiso's animal control regulations which were given to Chief Spanier. He returned it to the Town Council and they requested the Police Commission for their review. This will be on the agenda for June 21, 2005. There is a separate ordinance for fines and fees.

Art Heredia asked about status of credentials. Liaison Granat noted that business cards should have been ready today but other credentials or badges will not be issued.

Art Heredia reported that he and Brian Dahlin have been meeting with John Lane, Ed Surgener and Officer Torok and they are making progress on reviewing the General Orders. He would like to see if they could meet at least 2 times a month and hopefully finish by the end of September or October. Chief Spanier noted with summer here the department becomes busier and it becomes harder to find time. Heredia will meet with Surgener to see if this can be finished before fall.

Linda Hodges made a comment regarding the National Lakeshore parking lot to be put in and feels this will place an extra burden on the department and that we do not need more work at Porter beach.

Art Heredia asked about the telephone recorder and was told it is not working and the department is waiting for grant money and 911 calls are recorded. Cost to hookup recorder is between \$500 and \$800.

Heredia asked status of new officer hiring. Physical agility was done Saturday and 15 people showed up and 12 passed. Next step will be the written exam scheduled for June. Dahlin mentioned that in Griffith they take an application fee and with that money hire an independent person to test so there can be no bias involved in the test. This could possibly be something the Commissioners could look into and make a recommendation to the Town Council. Dahlin was asked to look into this.

After background checks and interviews recommendations would be made to the Commissioners. Heredia asked about background checks of the Fire Department and was directed the Chief Craig.

Granat asked when next department meeting would be held. Not scheduled yet, but would be the first couple days in July.

Linda Hodges asked if we still have reserves and are we using them. They are being used and are a help. Probably after the parade they will look for more reserves.

Karen Pisowicz asked if anyone looked into liability of Tasers. Spanier went to a seminar with the insurance company and they didn't do anything to discourage Taser use. Their concerns were that correct procedures be used in Taser use.

Heredia asked about software program which is ready and waiting for the company to schedule training.

Meeting adjourned 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

*Rita Newman*  
Rita Newman, secretary

*as corrected.*  
Minutes, approved this 21 day of June 2005

X  
\_\_\_\_\_  
William Donley, President

X  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Linda Hodges, Vice-President

X  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Brian Dahlin, Commissioner

\_\_\_\_\_  
Art Heredia, Commissioner

\_\_\_\_\_  
Karen Pizowicz, Commissioner

Attest \_\_\_\_\_  
Rita Newman, secretary