

**PORTER POLICE COMMISSION
MINUTES**

APRIL 19, 2005

The Porter Police Commission was called to order at 6pm. 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.

Brian Dahlin had two corrections to the minutes of May 9, 2005. First one is in paragraph 4 where he requested the police department look into logging miles. Second one is regarding Tasers on second page where Brian Dahlin brought up questions regarding liability to the Police Department and/or the Town. Brian Dahlin made a motion to accept the minutes as corrected. Linda Hodges seconded. Motion carried 5-0.

Chief Spanier's reports were accepted. Chief Spanier also reported that Mike Veal last month went to a week long terrorism training class and did a real good job bringing back information. Also Chief Spanier and Detective Veal went to a Concept for Commanders Negotiation Class with the FBI on what commanders responsibility would be with regard to a hostage situation or a barricaded subject.

Lt. Surgener and Sgt. Lane went to a class in South Bend sponsored by the Federal Government and agreed that it was very beneficial. All of these classes were at no cost to the department.

Linda Hodges thanked Joe Torok for his report and Mary Lane for the monthly report.

Karen Pisowicz brought up the subject of badges and feels there is no need for the commissioners to have badges because there are too many badges floating around town. Brian Dahlin brought up the fact that in his meetings with Griffith, Merrillville and other departments, all of the departments that issue badges make sure they are turned in at the end of their term. William Donley felt this would be a decision for the Town Council. Jennifer Granat stated that the Town Council has employee IDs but does not plan to issue any other badges at this time.

Art Heredia asked Chief Spanier if when training hours come through to let the commissioners know what type of training and maybe commissioners can project what type of training needs to be done as crime trends change. Chief Spanier stated the department is limited as to what they can take. Chief Spanier plans to give the commissioners a report as the training is completed. Every officer is mandated to get so many hours a year which would be the minimum.

Brian Dahlin spoke with the Griffith Police Chief and there is a two week seminar coming up for Police Chiefs that would probably be at no cost to the town.

Under old business Chief Spanier made a suggestion that the commissioners table the Curfew Ordinance until the State comes up with an ordinance. It was agreed by consensus this ordinance be tabled.

Regarding the letter to Indiana Department of Traffic for a study at US 20 and Waverly Road, Chief Spanier said Asst. Chief Menn is waiting for a call from a supervisor and that something is planned for this intersection. Pedestrian walk signs have been installed. When the department learns what is planned it will be brought to the Commission and it can be decided what type of letter needs to be sent.

Before giving his report on visiting various police departments, Brian Dahlin wanted it clarified that he doesn't want our police department nor does he want anybody in the public to think that he wants to take the policy we already have and bury it. His intentions are to bring in pieces of other policies and to see if they fit into the puzzle. He mentioned going to Griffith and Merrillville and that Griffith has a policy that actually saved the town \$550,000 in a lawsuit. Brian also would like to encourage the members of the Police Department to attend the Commission meetings, encourage the officers to call on Commission members with any questions. Linda Hodges concurred that we need to keep lines of communication open and that the Commissioners are here to help the officers in their jobs. Chief Spanier will relay this to the department.

Under New Business: Beach Permits-Chief Spanier mentioned that Brian suggested putting beach permits on the back window of the cars as opposed to front left windshield. Since the permits are already out for this year, nothing can be done now. It might be possible to put the permits on the back window with exceptions made for convertibles and pick-up trucks.

Karen Pisowicz brought up the fact that the recorder on the telephone at the station does not record and feels it is imperative this be fixed. A grant has been awarded for this put another police department gave Porter one. Our grant person will check to see if funds can be used to install the recorder and when the grant comes in to replace the money. Currently 911 call are recorded.

Art Heredia asked about any progress getting a new clerk. Mary Lane is doing above and beyond. There is no money for a full time clerk. Art also asked about the software and the department is waiting for delivery.

There was also discussion regarding two new police cars: Ed Surgener wanted a Ford and John Lane wanted Chevrolet.

Meeting adjourned 7 pm

Respectfully submitted

Rita Newman, secretary

Minutes approved this _____ day of _____, 2005

William Donley, President

Linda Hodges, Vice-President

Brian Dahlin, Commissioner

Art Heredia, Commissioner

Karen Pisowicz, Commissioner