

PORTER POLICE COMMISSION MINUTES

August 11, 2004

The Porter Police Commission meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m. Present were Chad Brooks, President; William Donley, Vice-President; Linda Hodges, Commissioner and Chief John Lane. Sandy Boothe, liason for Porter Town Council was absent.

Linda Hodges made a motion to accept the minutes of the July 14, 2004 meeting. Chad Brooks seconded. Motion carried 2-0.

Chief Lane submitted the July monthly report showing an increase in accidents with animal control and alarms about the same. Total incidents were 592 with last month being 581. Vehicle mileage was about the same as last month but total off-duty mileage was lower. Discussion was held regarding the alcohol incidents; operating while intoxicated and driving under the influence are covered under the same statute. There were 3 never obtained a driver's license which is now a misdemeanor. William Donley made a motion to accept the monthly report. Linda Hodges seconded. Motion carried 3-0.

Chief Lane reported on the Explorer Post which has members numbering from 6 to 8, then goes down to 5 members. Two new members were at last meeting so the car being decommissioned was being torn apart which will be continued at tonight's meeting. Next meeting on August 25 will have formal training from a bike training officer from Hobart who will teach proper bike patrol techniques. Post Tribune reporter Kathy Ceperich will write a feature on the Explorer Post to be printed in the Neighborhood section at some later date. A booth will be at Taste of Porter August 28, 2004 with a children's fingerprinting service and perhaps a Stranger Danger information handout. The Explorer Post is a "work in progress" but Chief Lane is pleased with the direction.

In April, Chief Lane attended a meeting at Portage Police Department that had to do with Home Security money being available and to be funded by the Emergency Management Association. Based on Porter's population Chief Lane had 62 cents per capita. In a very narrow field of use, the amount came to about \$3,000.00. Chief Lane submitted that officers be given operations level training which would provide suits, essentially isolation suits, not HazMat suits, in case an officer would be exposed to biological hazards. This would reimburse the town for all 10 officers to be trained in an 8 hour course costing approximately \$1900.00. For the rest of the money, Chief Lane would like a power point projector for use with computer programs..

Regarding Homeland Security, William Donley posed the question regarding all the trains moving through town, if Chief Lane ever worked with railroad security. Chief Lane stated most dealings with the railroad have to do with trespassers, kids on motor bikes or other similar incidents. Linda Hodges also asked where the training would take place. It would take place here and Chief Lane will be able to pay a part-timer to cover while officers are being trained. Chief Lane hopes to have all training done within the next 60 days.

During summer, the department has concerns regarding vacations and also 2 part-time people have decided to to work anymore, Chief Lane would like to look at some applications for part-time dispatchers and officers and bring these names to the next meeting.

Several months ago the commission discussed an alarm ordinance and Chief Lane requested the commission look over his submitted ordinance and return with any recommendations, changes, etc.

At last night's Town Council meeting, Chief Lane was asked to look into a curfew law and will do some research on this.

Bernard Poparod from Burns Harbor Town Council requested that a stop sign to be placed at Babcock and Verplank Road. Chief Lane will check on the traffic. William Donley requested to ride along with an officer. Porter would be responsible for 1 stop sign with Burns Harbor putting in 2 for a 3-way stop. Chief Lane asked that the Commissioners look at this intersection and get back to him. Bernard Poparod spoke about the dangerous conditions at this corner and Linda Hodges agreed "it's an accident waiting to happen". Chief Lane also requested the Commissioners read over the Uniform Traffic Control Device Manual for the State of Indiana. Recommendation regarding this stop sign will, if approved, be submitted to the Town Council for final decision.

Pastor Larry Starett of the First Baptist Church presented the Commissioners with a 2-sided report showing course breakdown for the Criminal Justice Chaplaincy Training program. A semester of training was covered in one week of intensive learning. Pastor Starett thanked the Commission for sending for the training and stated it is a privilege to serve as Chaplain for the Porter Police Department. The Commissioner thanked Pastor Starett for being the Chaplain.

There was no old business or new business.

Meeting adjourned 6:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rita Newman

Rita Newman, Secretary

Minutes approved this 8<sup>TH</sup> day of SEPT., 2004

Chad Brooks

Chad Brooks, President

William Donley

William Donley, Vice-President

Linda Hodges

Linda Hodges, Commissioner

Attest:

Rita Newman

Rita Newman