



## **BROWNSBURG POLICE COMMISSION MINUTES**

These are the Minutes of the regularly scheduled meeting of the Brownsburg Police Commission held at the Brownsburg Town Hall on September 9, 2014 at 6:04 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ray Kotarski, Stan Comer, Allan Bolante, Terry Smith, Don Spencer

**ALSO PRESENT:** Chief Michael Dove, Major Joe Grimes, Major Pat Bullock, Attorney Jayson Marksberry and Secretary Kellie Stewart

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The Pledge of Allegiance was given.

Ray Kotarski requested a moment of silence in honor of a recent police officer from Merrillville, Indiana, Officer Nickolaus Schultz. Officer Schultz was shot on duty and passed away days later.

Ray Kotarski also requested everyone to keep Chris Wingler in their prayers as her mother passed away over the weekend.

Allan Bolante made a motion to approve the September 9, 2014 Agenda. Don Spencer seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. Motion carried.

Stan Comer made a motion to approve the regular scheduled meeting minutes dated August 12, 2014. Allen Bolante seconded the motion. Don Spencer requested a correction. Request noted. Stan Comer made a motion to approve the submitted minutes with an amendment. Allen Bolante seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Allen Bolante made a motion to approve the Budgetary Expense Report dated September 1, 2014. Don Spencer seconded the motion. There was no further discussion. Motion carried.

Allen Bolante asked the Chief if the government is behind on disbursing forfeiture money.



Chief Dove stated there is always a delay but the department should have the funds soon.

OLD BUSINESS  
CHIEF OF POLICE

Chief Dove stated the U.S. Nationals event held over Labor Day weekend at Lucas Oil Raceway drew a large crowd. Chief stated he was very impressed with how the department handled the event and was happy to report there were no arrests made. Chief Dove commended Cpl. Doug Abshire for his hard work he put into organizing officer coverage at the track. Cpl. Abshire was also in charge of collecting all of the pertinent paper work from officers outside the Brownsburg Police Department. Chief Dove informed the Commission the money budgeted for the track came in \$10,000 less than last year.

Chief thanked the Indiana State Police for their assistance outside the track. ISP handled all of the traffic outside the track.

Chief said he has already met with the director at Lucas Oil Raceway and he was very pleased with how well the event was handled.

Chief Dove updated the group on the 2015 Budget. The budget has been presented to the Town Council. The first reading will be on Thursday, September 11<sup>th</sup>. Chief stated that they were asked to remove the request for additional officers in 2015 because of the delay of annexation.

Chief Dove said the drug action plan that was put in place recently is already showing great progress. Since working with the DEA and UDTF officers from the Brownsburg Police Department have been able to work several cases involving large quantities of drugs that would have been on the streets of Brownsburg.

Don Spencer commented regarding the 2015 Budget. Don Spencer stated that he has been working with the Town Council to get the department the proper equipment in order to perform their duties efficiently and safely.

OLD BUSINESS  
COMMISSION

Nothing to report.

NEW BUSINESS  
CHIEF OF POLICE

Chief discussed the golf carts that are currently being used by the department are becoming inadequate. The carts that are used have been in the fleet for around eight years and the Chief stated they are in need of purchasing new ones that will be more reliable. When the golf carts were originally purchased the department did not have to use them at the track. The officers need something to get around the events held at the track where squad cars cannot be utilized.

Chief informed the board of a recent ERT deployment involving a suicidal subject. Chief stated it was a life or death situation and the Team did a good job on decision making and were able to get into the residence in order to provide needed medical attention to save the subject. Chief reiterated the fact that the Team provided excellent service.

Terry Smith asked how long does it take for the Team to respond to the scene.

Major Grimes stated Road Officers were originally on the scene, some of the Officers there are on ERT. When the request for ERT assistance was dispatched it took approximately 15 -20 minutes. It took approximately 45 minutes to have the complete team there to receive their assignments.

Terry Smith asked if this was an acceptable time.

Chief Dove stated that anything under an hour is considered outstanding by SWAT teams that are full time. Chief stated this makes the ERT time exceptional.

Major Grimes stated the 45 minutes allows the team to be fully dressed and stacked for their assignments. Major stated they are working with Dispatch regarding notification to the newest members of the team. Major said he has no apprehension about the activation of personnel.

Stan Comer recommended Terry Smith try to observe a call out that the ERT responds to.

Terry Smith stated he would be interested.

Major Bullock wanted to thank some of the Reserve Officers that covered the road while this call out took place. Major Bullock also wanted to thank the Dispatch Center as well for their monitoring and recording of the incident.

Chief Dove announced the resignation of Reserve Officer Andrew Richards. Chief wanted to thank Officer Richards for his time he dedicated to the department.

Ray Kotarski asked if the department will be hosting the next Reserve Academy.

Major Grimes stated that the department has been contacted by several agencies asking if they will be hosting the next academy. Training Coordinator, Sgt. Andy Watts has been given the approval to coordinate a meeting between departmental heads for the training aspect of hosting a Reserve Academy. There are some logistics to work out with other agencies and trainer availability. Once future dates and available time is worked out the Police Commission will be informed.

Chief Dove stated when he became Chief he did a needs assessment and decided to do away with the department dive team. Chief said they had only been called out once and did not feel it was beneficial to keep them when the Fire Department has a dive team as well as IMPD. Both of the other dive teams can be called out to assist at any time. Chief requested the permission to create a list for surplus that would include the equipment once used by the Dive Team. The intentions are to give the equipment to other agencies that may need it and dispose of the remaining equipment.

The Police Commission granted permission.

Chief requested permission to conduct a survey on the off ramp of I74 & Ronald Reagan Parkway. Chief stated there are some serious concerns about the traffic exiting I74. Chief stated a safety issue was brought to his attention. Chief said he went to the area himself along with Commissioner Comer, to observe. Chief stated the off ramp at Ronald Reagan coming from the east heading west is very congested. It makes it very dangerous with the speed limit being 55 MPH. Permission was granted to move forward with a survey that will be conducted by the Traffic Units. This report will then be presented to the Town Manager's Office.

Allan Bolante also stated this is a dangerous exit.

Terry Smith quoted the same concerns.

Chief Dove covered vehicle pursuits in August. Chief stated one was a theft case and the other involved a drug case. STOPS instructors have been notified on how to conduct future training due to the frequency of pursuits in the department.

Chief notified the Commission that in October he will be coming to them with a timeline on a promotional process that will affect the rank structure within the department. Chief stated the information will be provided to them at the next meeting per policy.

Don Spencer asked if salaries will be affected by the process.

Chief Dove stated he will be working within the 2015 Proposed Budget. There have been rank structure adjustments that will be filled in with this promotional process.

NEW BUSINESS  
COMMISSION

Stan Comer made a motion to approve the conditional offers of employment to Corey Hill and Mark Crawn. Don Spencer seconded the motion.

Ray Kotarski called for a vote.  
Motion passed.

Allan Bolante stated that their employment is to start in 2014.

Chief Dove stated yes.

Mark Crawn was present in the audience and introduced himself. Mark is originally from Brownsburg. He has worked for Indiana State University PD and Terre Haute PD. He is currently living in Brownsburg and working for Butler University PD.

MAJORS' REPORTS

Stan Comer asked Major Bullock regarding the purchase of new golf carts; is he considering gas powered golf carts?

Major Bullock stated that is what they are going to purchase to replace the electric ones. Gas powered golf carts will be more efficient.

Stan Comer thanked Major Grimes for his coverage in his report about the ERT division. Stan Comer appreciated Major Grimes's comments on an armored personnel carrier and how the department would benefit from its use.

Allan Bolante commented on how solid Major Grimes report was. Allan Bolante remarked about the resignation of an ERT member at the end of the year.

Major Grimes stated that an ERT operator is retiring at the end of the year. Cpl. Bass will be staying on to train if needed.

Allan Bolante asked Major Bullock about the four "Use of Force" reports that were submitted for August. Of the four three involved a firearm being used.

Major Bullock stated there were firearms pointed no discharge. All were after vehicle pursuits. The fourth was hands on by the officer in order to take a suspect into custody.

Ray Kotarski stated there are several people in the community that constantly convey to the public that this armored personnel carrier is a tank. Ray Kotarski invited the public to come to a commissioner meeting or the police department and learn the facts about what kind of equipment is needed to keep personnel safe.

Don Spencer commented that there have been a number of instances recently where individuals, with the ability to reach the ears of this community, have continually given mis-information, misleading information, half-truths, un-truths and mischaracterization of the Police Department. If this was a simple disagreement it could be tolerated but this is beyond a simple disagreement and is slandering to individuals on the police department. Don Spencer stated that he has never been approached by any individual in this community who speaks of these untruths, to sit and set the record straight through meaningful discussions. Don Spencer stated he would make himself available to anybody in the community at any time to discuss the budget and the department's policy approach to policing. Don Spencer stated he will not continue to tolerate misinformation that paralyzes this community and compromises our ability to improve and provide proper response and quality policing.

Allan Bolante echoed his concerns. Allan Bolante stated the reason people come to "Night Out Against Crime" is because they appreciate the police officers in the town and what they do for the community. To have individuals say otherwise is an embarrassment.

Ray Kotarski thanked everyone for their comments.

Chief Dove addressed the same subject as the Commissioners. Chief stated there are individuals in this town that have accused him of militarizing the department. Chief said this is very offending. Chief Dove stated the main topic is to protect the officers while they are protecting the citizens of this town. Chief said if the proper information was provided to the citizens, that we are sworn to protect, then they would understand the importance of having the requested equipment. These are not tanks. Chief stated he will not put up with condemning the actions of this police department for personal gain that may cause the Town of Brownsburg to suffer. Chief Dove informed the Commission he has already consulted with legal advice on how to handle this personally. Chief thanked the Commissioners for their comments and Major Grimes for his information that was part of his monthly report.

Chief Dove stated in a recently published report that Brownsburg is the 8<sup>th</sup> safest community in Indiana, the safest in Hendricks County.

Chief stated this is past his decision making process and is now in the hands of the Town Council as to whether or not the department will be provided with the equipment needed to protect and serve this town.

## PUBLIC SERVICE ACTIVITY REPORT

Chief Dove stated the activity report reflects how the officers of this department affect hundreds of people in the community. Our Community Officer works with the Community by sharing information on safety and other important information.

## MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE

The department received a letter and a check from a citizen. The Chief and staff are unaware why this person sent the letter and money but are welcomed by the positive comments and the monetary donation. A thank you letter was sent.

## FLOOR

Jim Sering, of 6 W. Tilden, asked the Chief about the arrests that did not occur at the race track during the US Nationals. Chief confirmed that there were no arrests. Mr. Sering stated he was at the special budget meeting held by the Town Council. Mr. Sering said the Police Department's portion of the Town budget was at 43%.

Chief Dove stated that was inaccurate. The Police Department is part of the General Fund Budget. However the department is 14% of the Overall Town Budget.

Jim Sering apologized for reading the pie chart wrong that was provided at the meeting he attended.

Jim Sering asked the Commission about the discussion they were having pertaining to the armored vehicle. Mr. Sering said he had not heard anything negative at any of the meetings.

Chief Dove informed Mr. Sering that the negative comments happened on social media and the local radio show.

Jim Sering said he heard another agency bought a piece of military equipment for \$6,000 and questioned the Chief on why so much money was requested for the armored vehicle for our department.

Chief Dove stated that the department requested \$175,000 for an armored personnel carrier that is not military issued. To maintain a military vehicle is very expensive and is not fully equipped at \$6,000. The armored protective vehicle we are requesting to purchase is the civilian version and is not a used piece of military equipment that is not outfitted for police use. This piece of equipment will last us 20 years and not 2 years. If you break down the cost over the period of time it would be utilized it is more cost effective.

Jim Sering stated as a citizen he was sorry to hear about people in the Town making negative comments about the police department. He said that for the most part everyone in Brownsburg appreciates the department and everything they do to protect and serve.

ATTORNEY

Jayson Marksberry, Attorney spoke regarding the previous portion of the meeting. Jayson Marksberry stated there are a lot more positive comments than negative. Jayson said he thinks the department does a great job and he is very proud to be associated with them. Jayson stated the APC discussion has been politicized. Jayson said that he wants to officers to be safe and wants them to have to tools needed to do their job.

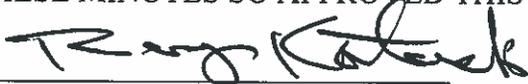
Jayson Marksberry stated that when he was the subject under attack he offered to discuss the subject with the individuals that are involved and no one came forward.

ADJOURNMENT

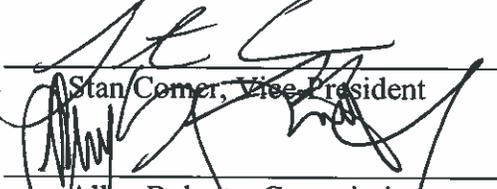
Allan Bolante made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Don Spencer seconded the motion.

Ray Kotarski adjourned the meeting at 7:13PM

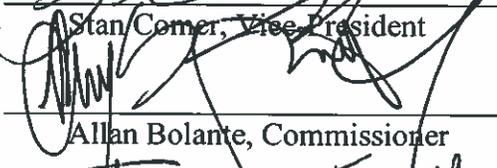
THESE MINUTES SO APPROVED THIS OCTOBER 14, 2014



Ray Kotarski, President



Stan Comer, Vice President



Allan Bolante, Commissioner



Terry Smith, Commissioner



Don Spencer, Commissioner

ATTESTED:



Kellie Stewart, Secretary