

Trafalgar Board of Metropolitan Police Commissioners  
Special Meeting  
February 3, 2016

Board President Jim Stump called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. and roll call was taken at 7:04 p.m. Board members present were Board President Jim Stump, Commissioner Mark Chester, Commissioner James Bowman, and Commissioner Curtis Price. Board attorney Daniel Paul, Chief Charles Roberts (non-voting), Deputy Chief Doug Rather (non-voting), and K-9 Officer Brody were also present.

The first order of business was approval of the minutes of the meetings of August 5, 2015 and December 2, 2015. After reviewing the minutes from both meetings no questions regarding the minutes or discussion about the minutes was held and Commissioner Bowman moved for approval of the minutes as submitted. Commissioner Bowman's motion was seconded by Commissioner Chester. The minutes for the August 5, 2015 and December 2, 2015 meetings were approved unanimously and adopted by the Board.

After approval of the minutes, Board President Stump recognized Chief Roberts and invited him to the lectern to deliver his report to the Board.

Chief Roberts' report included the following topics:

- **Hiring of Part Time Officer Jason Wools**

Chief Roberts reported that he would like to hire Jason Wools to work as needed on the night shift. Some shift changes necessitated extra help on the night shift. Officer Wools is a deputy with the Johnson County Sheriff's Department and graduate of the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy (hereinafter "ILEA"). Officer Wools would be paid part time and on call as needed. The Department's budget is adequate to pay Officer Wools on a part time basis without a present increase. Officer Wools is reported to be a highly qualified candidate and the Chief requested permission to hire Officer Wools on a part-time basis.

After Chief Roberts report, the Board had no further inquiries on the issue and a Motion to approve the hiring of Officer Wools was made by Commissioner Bowman and seconded by Commissioner Chester. The Board unanimously approved the part-time hiring of Officer Jason Wools as requested by Chief Roberts.

- **Officer Abbott's impending graduation from the ILEA**

Chief Roberts advised that Officer Abbott is expected to graduate from the ILEA on February 26, 2016. Officer Abbott is doing very well at ILEA and a discussion was held about presenting Officer Abbott a small token of appreciation (such as an engraved pocket knife or some other small gift) upon his graduation for his hard work. A discussion was held to invite Officer Abbott to the April Board meeting for recognition of his graduation. Chief Roberts will extend such invitation to Officer Abbott.



- **New Computers**

Chief Roberts reported that the new computers are very satisfactory and are working very well. This was an area of significant need and the Chief is very pleased with the performance of the new computers. The old computers were in high need of replacement and the new computers are smaller, much faster, and serve the Department's needs very well.

- **School outreach and patrol matters**

Chief Roberts reported that although no known threats have been made to Indiana Creek Schools, due to ongoing issues of threats being made at other schools the Department is taking a proactive stance on attempting to mitigate the threat of such incidents happening at Indiana Creek. The Department is making efforts to be present in schools every day for at least a portion of the day. This effort is both as a policing measure and for community outreach. In coordination with the Schools, the Department conducts random locker searches 2 times per month with K-9 Officer Brody at the high school. The only known criminal activity recently involving the school was a juvenile arrest for controlled substance issues.

The Chief further advised that Officers, including K-9 Officer Brody, have engaged in significant community outreach efforts at the schools. The kids are quite receptive to seeing the officers and particularly K-9 Officer Brody. This type of non-confrontational engagement with the youth of the community is believed to be very valuable as both a policing tool and for community relations. The outreach and school engagement will continue.

The members of the Department, along with teachers from Indiana Creek Schools, will take part in a basketball game with the Harlem Wizards on February 13, 2016. The Chief is looking forward to this event.

- **New radios installed**

Chief Roberts reported that the new radios (installed in the Department's vehicles) which were purchased along with the computers mentioned previously as part of a \$13,000 grant are working very well. The Department, in coordination with the Schools, can now monitor the School's 3 channel radio system, which includes the bus radios. This gives the Department the ability to address School emergency issues much more quickly and effectively should they arise.

- **Tactical vests are ordered and we are awaiting their delivery**

Tactical vests, which are different than bullet proof vests in that they have pockets for emergency equipment and ammunition, are ordered and the Department is awaiting their delivery. The tactical vests are similar to what SWAT teams use and will help for preparation for any high risk situation that might arise.

This discussion led into a discussion in which Commissioner Bowman asked about maintenance issues related to Department equipment. Officers are responsible for maintaining



their equipment, including vehicles. In the event maintenance issues arise, Officers are to coordinate with Chief Roberts to address any maintenance needs. There was some new equipment purchased at 2015 years' end to address some Department needs such as zip ties, a hand held radar, and rope. The Chief commented that he feels with the new equipment purchases (including the radios and computers above mentioned) that the Department is well equipped to handle its policing responsibilities. The Chief is very pleased with the equipment situation.

- **Bail-out bags**

The last item on the Chief's agenda was a discussion of bail-out bags recently ordered. They are large heavy duty bags which contain such items as extra ammunition, rope, extra flashlights, prying devices, tourniquets and other equipment necessary to address time-sensitive emergency situations, in particular active shooter situations. The officer would simply grab his bag and rifle and head to the emergency. This is a time saving device which can be crucial if such situations would ever arise.

- **Miscellaneous Items**

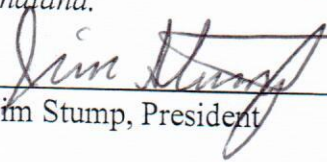
There were no other items on the Chief's Report, but the Board inquired about the new school construction situation. The new school is slated to open next school year which will leave a large vacant building (the current school). Commissioner Bowman inquired about the plans for the old school and there are no concrete plans in place. This is an issue of concern for the Department as nobody in the community would want the vacant building to become a target for criminal activity. Chief Roberts said the Department would work with the School and Town Board to monitor the situation to determine what might happen to the building and to address any issues that might arise.

A discussion was held about traffic issues at the intersection of 135 and Pearl Street. The Board was concerned about drivers speeding and otherwise driving recklessly in that area. Chief Roberts indicated that the Department intended to engage in increased traffic patrols and radar gun monitoring of the area but that a stop light was the preferred method of dealing with that intersection. The State has to approve such a light and the prospects for that happening in short order may be limited. The Department will do its best to address the situation.

Chief Roberts reported that he believes he will be able to pay off the newest vehicle in the Department fleet within this budget year and, after doing so, hopes to obtain a replacement vehicle for one of the older vehicles which has in excess of 100,000 miles. Otherwise, the Chief is very pleased with the equipment situation as described above.

There being no further business to come before the Commission, the meeting was unanimously adjourned on motion of Commissioner Bowman, seconded by Commissioner Chester. The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

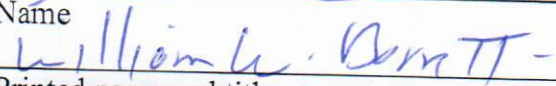
*These Minutes of the meeting which occurred on February 3, 2016 were signed and adopted this 6<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2016 in the Town of Trafalgar, County of Johnson, and State of Indiana.*

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jim Stump, President

Attest:

  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Printed name and title

William L. Barnett - Town Attorney