



# Long Beach Police Commission

## Meeting agenda / minutes

October 5<sup>th</sup> 2023 Quarterly meeting

4:00 pm CT

Meeting location: Town Center also Via zoom, link provided on the Town website

### Commission Members Present

Chief Mark Swistek

John Kocher (present by zoom)

Bob McFadden

John Wall (present by zoom)

### OLD BUSINESS

- ❖ **Firearms testing with Glock:** Update: The new 9mm handguns were issued in July after a day of range qualification and training. Thank you to Officer Mark Raymond with the Michigan City Police Department who assisted with the red dot transitional training. The new RDS mounted system has improved our accuracy. Next week Thursday January 12<sup>th</sup> we will be meeting with Kiesler Police supply and a representative of GLOCK to test fire the GLOCK model 45 9mm handgun with an optic system. Joining us will be the LaPorte County Sheriff department, Michigan City Police Department, and the Trail Creek Police department. We are looking to upgrade the current issued sidearm that our Deputies carry to include an optic system mounted on the weapon.
- ❖ **New Public Safety facility:** Update: Project is moving along well and is expected to be completed in March of 2024. We are still waiting on the State of Indiana Health Department to provide us with a recommendation for the sanitary septic needs. Hopeful to hear back from them near the end of October. Emergency siren will be relocated to the westside of Town Hall the week of October 9<sup>th</sup>. Looking forward to our new accommodations for our equipment and vehicles.

### NEW BUSINESS

- ❖ **Fall Leaf pickup / avoid traffic hazards:** Dates will be posted on the Town website during the month of October: Residents are asked to rake the leaves to the edge of their property and to keep the leaves off the roadway. No sticks or large items are to be placed in the piles as it will damage the leaf vacs.
- ❖ **Departmental policies updates:** We continue to update our departmental operating policies. This year there have been mandates from the Indiana Law Enforcement Training Board (LETB). Policies related to vehicle pursuits and use of force were updated on April 6<sup>th</sup>. Back in July the LETB issued a uniform policy related to defensive tactics. The new policy now mandates that all Indiana Police Officers receive a minimum of four hours of Defensive Tactics training annually which is to be hands on training exercises.
- ❖ **In-car computer grant:** Back in the spring we applied for a grant opportunity through the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (ICJI) for new HP laptop computers for our patrol units. Last month we receive three new HP Laptops with new in-car printers and scanners. All the items were at no cost to the Town. The previous Town owned laptops will be issued to the Building Department.



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- ❖ **Patrol car replacement 2024:** We will begin the process of looking for a replacement patrol vehicle. During the search we will be looking at both purchase and leasing options. The overall cost of vehicles has drastically increased in recent years. Vehicles that were previously \$33,000+ and are now \$43-48,000 for police package units.
- ❖ **Police Service Contracts Duneland & Town of Michiana Shores:** Both are police service contracts with the Duneland Beach Association and the Town of Michiana Shores are set to expire on January 31<sup>st</sup> 2024. I have reached out to both community leaders and they are asking to renew the police contracts for another three-year term. There will be an increase in the contracts and are subject to the approval of both government officials. Plan is to present the contracts during the month of November for consideration.
- ❖ **Deputy Matthew Farthing:** Deputy Farthing will be completing his first year of service with us on November 14<sup>th</sup>. We have received compliments about his calm demeanor, strong work ethic, and outgoing personality. Deputy Farthing has been an exceptional addition to the LBPd.
- ❖ **Trick or Treat / Trunk or Treat events:** On Tuesday October 31<sup>st</sup> from 5-7pm the Town will be hosting community wide trick or treat. Residents willing to participate should turn on their front lights to welcome the children. We will also be hosting our 2<sup>nd</sup> annual "Trunk or Treat" event in the parking lot of the Long Beach Community Center. During this event residents are welcome to join us in the parking lot by decorating their vehicles or by just reserving a parking space to handout candy. If the weather is poor, we will move to the gym. Visit the Long Beach Fire or Police Facebook pages for more details.
- ❖ **Summer recap 2023:** overall it was a very productive summer for the police department. One major concern was the number of guns recovered during encounters at stop #24. A total of four handguns were recovered just this year. We have experienced visitors from Michigan City stopping at the beach stop in the evening hours. Our Deputies have increased their presence in the area to assist with the concerns. Several arrests were made related to the gun recoveries. Another concern this summer was the operating of golf carts while intoxicated. In a few investigations parents were operating the golf carts with a child present and the operator of the golf cart was intoxicated. Our Deputies' overall self-initiated activity has contributed to an increase in the number of calls for service. Year to date from January 1<sup>st</sup> 2023 through Labor Day September 4<sup>th</sup> our CFS were 2338 compared to 1566 in 2022 for an overall increase of 772 calls for service. Chief Swistek also explained LBPd assisting other communities when requested reference mutual aide. Often LBPd will assist MCPD or Trail Creek. The other agencies also assist us when required.

**Public Comments: None**



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**Commission Comments: None**

**Adjournment:** Concluded meeting at 4:27pm

**Next meeting is January 4<sup>th</sup> 2024 at 4:00 PM**

Agenda/Minutes prepared by: Chief Mark Swistek