



## Long Beach Police Commission Meeting agenda / minutes

January 5<sup>th</sup> 2023

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 (absent)  
Bob McFadden  
John Wall

### OLD BUSINESS

- ❖ **New Patrol Unit:** Update: The vehicle was scheduled for production on December 12<sup>th</sup> 2022. We are hopeful to receive the vehicle in late January. (Previous information) We have secured a 2023 Ford F-150 Police Responder unit with Bloomington Ford through the State QPA agreement. At this time the production / ship time is unknown due to the continued "chip shortage". The vehicle radar, lighting package and trunk vault have been received.

### NEW BUSINESS

- ❖ **2022 year in review:** Overall 2022 was a productive year for the department. Total calls for service were 2,329 for 2022 when compared to 2,450 CFS in 2021 for a slight reduction of 121 calls for service for the year. We investigated one residential burglary. Majority of theft investigations were related to "porch pirate thefts" related to stolen amazon and FedEx packages being stolen from porches. Only major investigation was the unfortunate double homicide investigation within the Town of Michiana Shores back on Thursday, September 1<sup>st</sup>.
- ❖ **Firearms testing with Glock:** 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.
- ❖ **CRISIS outreach program:** LaPorte County Law Enforcement was the recipient of a grant for a "Crisis Intervention Team. The team will focus on community intervention to substance use, instability, and suicidal support. The grant period is July 1<sup>st</sup> 2022 through December 31<sup>st</sup> 2024. Overall goal is to reduce the trauma that people experience during a mental health crisis and provide valuable resources for mental health services. Similar programs are being launched nationwide in response to the growing mental health concern. In January-March 2023 the training will be offered to officers of LaPorte County.
- ❖ **Staffing update:** Deputy Mitchel Sightes back in December declined an offer to join the Brownsburg Indiana Police Department and has decided to stay with us. In 2023 he has asked to take on some of



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the training responsibilities previously assigned to Deputy Babcock. Back in November we hired Deputy Matthew Farthing who previously served the Kingsford Heights Police Department. Matthew has been doing exceptionally well and is an excellent addition to our team. He completed eight weeks on the day shift and is currently assigned to the midnight shift starting January 2<sup>nd</sup>.

- ❖ **New Public Safety facility:** Back on December 27<sup>th</sup> the Town Council approved the \$2.5 million dollar request to begin the process of building a new Long Beach Public Safety Facility for the Fire/Police Department. The primary focus of this facility will be to house our Fire Department. To include space for the police department and a community meeting room. Thank you to Councilman John Wall and the team that worked to get this project moving forward in 2023. Hopes are to break ground in early 2023.
- ❖ **2023 Goals:** This year we are working to purchase an additional multi-seat ATV for the use of both Police and Fire. This will improve our response to beach emergencies and use during special events providing us the ability to move multiple people at one time. Back in August we received a generous \$10,000 donation from a resident towards the purchase. We are working to improve our training opportunities for the Deputies. Both Deputy Sightes and Farthing are working with Sergeant James Schooley to seek new training for staff. Possibly update our firearms.
- ❖ **Golf Cart annual permit process:** In December we amended the Town Ordinance related to the registration of golf carts. The annual permit was changed from an annual permit for \$50.00 to a two-year permit for \$100.00. Therefore, the 2023-2024 permit will cost residents \$100.00 starting in January 2023.
- ❖ **Prosecutor Sean Fagan:** We have a meeting scheduled with our new LaPorte County Prosecutor Sean Fagan on Thursday January 19<sup>th</sup> at 9am. This will be a countywide meeting with all law enforcement agencies attending to include the Indiana State Police Lowell post personnel. Also have a E911 board meeting on January 11<sup>th</sup> at 1 pm.
- ❖ **Letter of Commendation December 18<sup>th</sup> LB221200020:** Deputy Mitchel Sightes responded to assist the Michigan City Police and Fire Departments at the Dunewood trailer park on SR 212. Initial dispatch information stated the residence was filling with smoke and the homeowner was unable to exit the home. Prior to the arrival of emergency responders, the caller was no longer speaking with the dispatchers. Deputy Sightes was first to arrive on scene and could smell the smoke outside the home. As additional responders arrived Officer Michael Petrie with the Michigan City Police Department observed the male victim lying on the living room floor in the smoke-filled residence. Deputy Sightes kicked in the locked front door and they removed the male victim to the front lawn. There the medical emergency responders assisted the male who eventually was determined to be doing well. Deputy Sightes received a Letter of Commendation for his actions.

**Public Comments: None**

**Commission Comments: None**



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**Adjournment:** Concluded meeting at 4:18 pm

**Next meeting is April 6<sup>th</sup> 2023 at 4:00 PM**

**Minutes prepared by: Chief Mark Swistek**