



LA POINTE POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Michael W. Anderson, Chief

May 9, 2013

To: Town Board

From: Michael Anderson

Re: Monthly Police Report for May 2013

During the month of April 2013 the La Pointe Police Department responded to the following:

- 18 Various Complaints/Incidents
- 5 Citizen Assist Requests
- 2 Before/After Duty Call Outs
- 7 Parking Violations
- 3 Vehicle Title/Registrations
- 1 Non-Reportable Traffic Accident
- 1 Animal Call
- 1 False Intruder Alarm

Beginning May 20th and ending June 2, the La Pointe Police Department will be participating in the annual national traffic safety campaign known as "Click It or Ticket". This program is sponsored each year by the Bureau of Traffic Safety and is intended to heighten the awareness for safety belt use. Successful completion of this program allows us to be eligible to receive a equipment grant.

The majority of our police officers will be spending many days in May doing training. Most are enrolled in the 24hr Patrol Officer In-Service in Ashland and some are enrolled in specialized training in Eau Claire. June 30th is the last day to have every officer completed in the mandated training and we will have everything completed by then.

On April 25th, Pete and I met with Jeff Beirl, Ashland County Administrator, Mick Brennen, Ashland County Sheriff and Jim Hanth, Chief Deputy. I don't mean to dwell on this too much at this time but in this case I think a bit of history would be beneficial.

Some of you may recall that in our 2012 law enforcement budget request to Ashland County, \$2,000 was withheld. I immediately questioned Jeff about the missing \$2,000 and I was told it was a clerical error and would be corrected. It was corrected and we did get reimbursed the entire request in quarterly installments.

I submitted our 2013 request in August 2012. There were no questions or reply from any County officials. At a later date, the County Board approved their budget with a \$2,030 deduction to our request. Both Barb and I asked Jeff why we did not receive our requested amount. Our request was followed with a request from Jeff for a itemized breakdown of our law enforcement budget for the past three years. This was done (by Barb) in a timely fashion. Pete had conversations with Jeff (Pete can speak for himself) during this period which lead to the meeting on April 25th.

At our meeting, Pete and I presented a draft of a new Law Enforcement Agreement that we felt better reflected the actual costs the Town of La Pointe accrues each year and what we'd like to see Ashland County's share be. This was not agreed upon by the County officials and a lengthy debate ensued. Unfortunately, I'm the only person left who was involved with the initial concept of the County paying half of the law enforcement costs. The original agreement started back in the late seventies and from what I recall was a verbal agreement. The agreement was updated in writing in 1995 and again in 2008. There were some clerical errors that still remain in the 2008 agreement.

I have given Pete and Jeff documents from the past showing the never ending problem of Ashland County falling behind in what I believe was their fair share. Jeff pointed out at our meeting that according to the current 2008 agreement, Ashland County has been overpaying for the past few years. Our meeting concluded with agreeing that sometime this summer, I will present the Sheriff and/or Chief Deputy with two budgets. One will show the costs the County would owe based solely on the 2008 agreement. The second one will show the real costs that the Town of La Pointe pays to provide law enforcement services to the residents and guests of La Pointe. This will be done to hopefully give the Sheriff/Chief Deputy a better understanding of the discrepancy between our two departments as well as difficulties of trying to operate a police department on a island. Once this is done, Pete and Jeff can try to resolve the dispute so it's fair to both governments and taxpayers.

Some have said, why argue over an amount that in comparison to the overall budget is so minute? In my opinion, there are several reasons, the two biggest ones are the amount of money the Town La Pointe pays into the County and what do we get in return? The other is, the Wisconsin Statutes say that the Sheriff of the County shall provide law enforcement service. There is no State Statute, that I know of, that says (disputed by Jeff) a Town shall provide law enforcement. It's also a matter of basic fairness.

This is a very important matter that needs to be addressed. I have 33+ years of information/experience regarding this issue and I would like it to be resolved before my departure. I don't like the thought of the Town of La Pointe being browbeaten or frightened into paying the majority of the costs or they won't be receiving adequate protection of life and property that are guaranteed under State law.

Sincerely,



Michael Anderson, Police Chief