



LA POINTE POLICE DEPARTMENT

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To: Town Board
From: William Defoe
Date: 10/13/2014
Re: Monthly Police Report

During the month of September 2014 the La Pointe Police responded to the following:

- 64 Incidents/Complaints
- 8 Citizen Assists
- 6 Vehicle Registrations
- 2 Accidents
- 1 Animal Calls
- 1 Civil Process

September calmed way down as school has begun and there are not as many visitors to the island as there was earlier this summer, not to mention the cold weather is also keeping people at home. Now that Apple Fest is over, the season is winding down, so will the hours of work for patrol officers. I intend on going to a winter schedule in November, which is the minimal coverage possible and still have the response time that our residents expect.

On September 3, we had our presentation from the Wisconsin Alcohol Tobacco Division. There were a few establishment owners who attended as well as Town Hall Staff. We all learned things we did not know previously and everyone who attended went away with a better understanding of how they work. They reiterated that they are more than willing to work with establishments as the laws can be confusing to many.

They picked the recipients of the Click it or Ticket grant program and unfortunately we were not on the list. The only local department to receive a grant award was the Bad River Tribal Police Department. We have two more chances this year in other programs. I have said before, I am really hoping to land one of these grants to alleviate some of the expense of the new squad slated for 2015.

I was reading the minutes from the Special Town Board Meeting held September 16, 2014. I just want to add a few things to what I had read and heard from that meeting. I have also been hearing rumblings within the community that I would like to address.

The State of Wisconsin statutes state that a Constable have to be a “certified law enforcement” officer in the State of Wisconsin in order to make lawful arrests. In other words, it is the same qualifications as we currently have in place for our police officers who are currently in place.

A part time police department is not advisable; I want to be on record as saying that this is a really bad idea and am passing the onus on the board for making such a decision if they decide to do so. Right now there is a 10 to 15 minute or less average response to all calls 24 hours a day. Our officers when they go off duty remain on call until the next officer arrives, (something they are not currently getting paid to do and may be in violation of DWD Administrative code 272.12 (4)).

In recent years there have been burglaries that have occurred, property crimes that have been perpetrated by persons living on and off the island in the fall and winter months, all you would be doing is creating the perfect environment for the criminal element to clean up. If there are no officers here, you are looking at a minimum of an hour and a half response time. This would be completely inexcusable in the event of a domestic and could result to liability issues with the town. The expectation of response from the public has been built over 30 years by Retired Chief Anderson.

I have spoken with the Sheriff’s office, they would not station a deputy here, calls happen all times during the day. Response via ferry boat is \$500 one way and car and person charges on top of that. This is passed on to the person arrested, but now it would be \$1000 because in order to get the money back, an arrest must be made and they have to be charged in court.

In closing, I see a lot of things wrong with these ideas statutorily and morally, we have been running on a skeleton budget for years and have been able to just manage. I hear a lot of rumblings in the community and although much of it may just be rumor, I would encourage any of you to come talk to me, Mike Anderson or even Sheriff Brennan or Chief Deputy Hnath before making decisions that will have drastic consequences for the safety of our community.

I have enclosed a one year study on calls for service strictly though Ashland County Dispatch, these do not include calls directly to officers, town hall or walk ins to the department. As you can see, calls happen year round and all times of the day. Approximately 1/4th of these calls occurred October 1, 2013 through March 30, 2014.

**Police Chief
William Defoe**