



LA POINTE POLICE DEPARTMENT

MADLINE ISLAND
270 MAIN STREET
LA POINTE, WISCONSIN 54850

PHONE: (715) 747-6913
FAX: (715) 747-3096
police@townoflapointewi.gov

To: Town Board
From: William Defoe
Date: 1/7/2021
Re: Monthly Police Report for January 2021

During the month of December 2020, the La Pointe Police responded to the following:

54	Incidents/Complaints (calls for service)
24	Citizen Assists
0	Accidents
0	Civil Process
0	False Alarm
1	Call out
1	Animal Calls
5	Parking Citations

December came and went with not much activity, once again with the bars closed, we are able to get away with less. We are still seeing visitors to the island, visiting the state park and the town park. If there is an ice road, I would assume we may have a record year for traffic.

December 18, 2020 through Jan 1, 2021, we participated in the national campaign Driver Sober Get Pulled over. I can report that there were no arrests for impaired driving. Our agency will be put into a drawing for a \$4,000 equipment grant.

On June 16, 2020 President Trump issued an Executive Order on Safe Policing for Safe Communities. Part of the Executive Order instructs that the US Attorney General will allocate Department of Justice discretionary grant funding only to those State and local law enforcement agencies that have sought or are in the process of seeking appropriate credentials from a reputable independent credentialing body certified by the Attorney General. The Attorney General's standards for certification shall require independent credentialing bodies to, at a minimum, confirm that:

- The State or local law enforcement agency's use-of-force policies adhere to all applicable Federal, State, and local laws; and

- The State or local law enforcement agency's use-of-force policies prohibit the use of chokeholds except in those situations where deadly force is allowed by law.

I am happy to report that we have received our accreditation from Wisconsin Law Enforcement Accreditation Group (WLEAG) as of December 29, 2020 for our Use of Force Policy that was written by myself and updated this past fall. WLEAG is approved by the Attorney General to do accreditation for law enforcement agencies.

If there are any questions or wish to discuss things within the department, please feel free to come talk to me.

WISCONSIN LAW ENFORCEMENT ACCREDITATION GROUP
Challenging Wisconsin's Law Enforcement Agencies to Pursue Excellence



U.S. Department of Justice's Standards for Certification on Safe Policing for Communities.

December 29, 2020

Dear Chief William Defoe,

On behalf of the Wisconsin Law Enforcement Accreditation Group, this letter confirms we are certifying that the La Pointe Police Department meets certain eligibility requirements, set forth by the U.S. Department of Justice, for discretionary federal grants. The La Pointe Police Department is qualified to receive federal grants for three years from the date of this letter.

Pursuant to Section 2 of the Presidential Executive Order on Safe Policing for Safe Communities, dated June 16, 2020, Executive Order No. 13929 (the "Executive Order on Safe Policing"), the U.S. Department of Justice's discretionary grant funding is only available to state, local, and university or college law enforcement agencies that have obtained (or are in the process of seeking) credentials certifying that they meet certain standards on use of force. The Executive Order on Safe Policing empowers the U.S. Attorney General to designate independent credentialing bodies — including the Wisconsin Law Enforcement Accreditation Group — to certify that a law enforcement agency meets the conditions of eligibility for federal grants.

Following our review, we have determined that the La Pointe Police Department meets the mandatory conditions for certification. Accordingly, the Wisconsin Law Enforcement Accreditation Group will include your agency going forward within our database of certified law enforcement agencies. On or before January 31st of each year, we will provide the name of each certified law enforcement agency to the Director of the COPS Office.

If you would like to discuss further, please do not hesitate to contact me either by email at m.ferguson@glendalewi.gov or by phone at (414) 228-1753.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Ferguson".

Chief Mark Ferguson, Glendale Police Department
President, Wisconsin Law Enforcement Accreditation Group



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PHONE: (715) 747-6913
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To: Town Board
From: William Defoe
Date: 2/4/2021
Re: Monthly Police Report for February 2021

During the month of January 2020, the La Pointe Police responded to the following:

43	Incidents/Complaints (calls for service)
12	Citizen Assists
0	Accidents
2	Civil Process
0	False Alarm
2	Call out
0	Animal Calls
3	Parking Citations

January was a typical January for the Police Department; we have been taking this time to prepare for the big move into the ESB once it is completed.

We have been working on parking lots, as a reminder trailers can not be left in Town parking lots that are not attached to a vehicle. Lot W on Whitefish next to the school has a 14-day limit until April 1 when it turns to a 4-day limit. It is posted at the entrances of the parking lot, yet we tend to have several people who park and leave their vehicles there for long periods of time. If you want to leave your vehicle for a long period of time, a long-term parking permit is available at the town hall for Lot W. We may even be able to arrange to post for a reserved personal spot.

It looks like we will we have a windsled season. Parking down in the windsled parking lot is only 4 days, and we are already seeing people park there. We will be pretty strict with the time limit in that parking lot as filling it up is not fair to the daily commuters.

Officers have been taking some online training, but the trainings only give 1-4 hours each and we all are required to have 24 hours of training a year by state law. The online training is few and far between, more than previous years, but most of it is not relevant to our officer's needs. Officers may have to attend in person training this spring, however, they are limiting participants in these trainings and taking precautions. I did not go to the Chiefs training this year, they however did limit capacity and took a lot of precautions.

If there are any questions or wish to discuss things within the department, please feel free to come talk to me.



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To: Town Board
From: William Defoe
Date: 3/4/2021
Re: Monthly Police Report for March 2021

During the month of February 2021, the La Pointe Police responded to the following:

51	Incidents/Complaints (calls for service)
21	Citizen Assists
0	Accidents
0	Civil Process
0	False Alarm
1	Call out
1	Animal Calls
7	Parking Citations

Calls were slightly up in Feb, would have been more if the ice road would have lasted longer than 36 hours. Many of our calls were answering questions about the ice road and times of transportation across via Windsled inc.

As of Mid-February, all regular officers working for the Town of La Pointe have been vaccinated. We all were administered the shot at the Ashland County Nurses office in Ashland.

Speaking of the vaccine, I was asked at the beginning of February to assist the Wisconsin Department of Health in transporting vaccine to our clinic on the island. To this day, I had made three trips across the ice whether it be in the windsled or drove to the crack and met a courier to accept the vaccine. Nate and Arnie Nelson were a great asset to help get the vaccine here.

In person trainings are starting to get ramped up again, we will be looking at in person training for officers. To this day, officers will need to have a mandatory 24 hours total Inservice training by June 31, 2021 or they will lose their state certification. There are limited online trainings we have been able to do, but an hour here and there is not conducive and many of the trainings available do not apply to our department (gang training and school resource officers for examples). We are actively looking at in person training, I was able to get most of the officers into Ashland's patrol officer Inservice, as someone will have to work while they are at training, I may have to leave the area to complete my own.

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To: Town Board
From: William Defoe
Date: 4/8/2021
Re: Monthly Police Report for April 2021

During the month of March 2021, the La Pointe Police responded to the following:

58	Incidents/Complaints (calls for service)
27	Citizen Assists
0	Accidents
0	Civil Process
0	False Alarm
0	Call out
1	Animal Calls
0	Parking Citations

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What can we say, March was the end of the ice road but at least we got most of one this year as driving to the crack was not the most ideal but it worked. There were still a few tourists that drove over the crack, a couple even got stuck over there. Calls were slightly up, but I credit that to more people coming over when the ferry started back up.

The last few weeks of the month were dedicated of moving into the new Emergency Services Building. We went through a lot of things and are still working out the kinks in the new digs. It is amazing on how fast spaces fill up and it will take some time to make things just right.

Most of the officers are going to WITC in Ashland for their 24 hours of mandatory training in April, as I have to cover the island while they are there, I will be headed to WITC in Rice Lake in May. After that, the department is good with mandatory training for the fiscal training year that ends June 30th. We will still be doing some inhouse training as well.

As the bars are looking at opening back up, we will have to have the conversation in the near future on staffing for the police department. Last fall I was told to not replace my 3rd full time officer, at the time with covid keeping bars closed it was not a big deal. Now that things are ramping back up, bars are opening again, we will not be able to cover the island they way we had been in the past with our current staffing. I have been trying to recruit part time officers, but it has not been successful. I will be putting out a more thorough memo soon.

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To: Town Board
From: William Defoe
Date: 5/6/2021
Re: Monthly Police Report for May 2021

During the month of April 2021, the La Pointe Police responded to the following:

61	Incidents/Complaints (calls for service)
23	Citizen Assists
0	Accidents
0	Civil Process
0	False Alarm
0	Call Out
2	Animal Calls
1	Parking Citations

Seasonal people and day trip tourists are starting to show back up. Beach Club has opened to those who are vaccinated. Things are on pace to be a busy summer. My main concern is staffing and patrol hours. I have been trying to recruit part time officers, it is not going very well. With our current staffing, and normal summer business, we will not be able to patrol hours we would be doing normally. I am working on a solution, hopefully I will be able to present it to the board in the next few weeks.

Officers attended training at WITC in Ashland in April, Mike Syphard and I will be attending WITC in Rice Lake in May to complete our mandatory 24-hour training for the fiscal year. We will still have to have some mandatory inhouse training such as firearms, arrest tactics and taser refresh. The Taser instructor we have used in the past is no longer in law enforcement, Sgt Rossberger took it upon himself to go become a taser instructor so we can also hold annual taser refresh and be compliant.

We have been spending a lot of time at the new hall, organizing, reorganizing, and moving things from the office in the town hall to the ESB and generally, going through things. The new hall has been a learning curve and finding bugs here and there. We are looking forward to the full competition.

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To: Town Board
From: William Defoe
Date: 6/2/2021
Re: Monthly Police Report for June 2021

During the month of May 2021, the La Pointe Police responded to the following:

140	Incidents/Complaints (calls for service)
42	Citizen Assists
2	Accidents
1	Civil Process
11	False Alarm/911 hang up calls.
0	Call Out
2	Animal Calls
0	Parking Citations

Calls are going up; hours of service are going up. As you can see our calls for service have more than doubled in the month of May versus the month of April. The tourist season is most definitely back.

As we get many 911 hang up calls, I have added those to the False Alarms section. 911 hang up calls tie up dispatch, officers, EMS and fire. We hope people please take care with their phones as it causes issues for everyone in these services.

I have been actively looking for part time help, I had a solution in the works for our understaffing problem, unfortunately that candidate had to back out due to family reasons and we will be interviewing another potential part time person in the coming week. We are officially shorthanded, with the number of calls and service needs going up, we will not be able to staff the way we had pre covid 19. The search continues, I will be presenting in the future to replace the 3rd full time officer now. I had been trying to go without it, it is not going to work.

All fiscal year training with a small exception of a qualifying mandated firearms qualification, have been met for the year, as of July 1 our new fiscal training year will be starting. We will not be waiting until the last minute this time to complete our mandatory training. Officers will be going to training at the end of summer into the fall to get ahead of our needs.

If there are any questions or wish to discuss things within the department, please feel free to come talk to me.



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To: Town Board
From: William Defoe
Date: 7/10/2021
Re: Monthly Police Report for July 2021

During the month of June 2021, the La Pointe Police responded to the following:

188	Incidents/Complaints (calls for service)
64	Citizen Assists
2	Accidents
0	Civil Process
5	False Alarm/911 hang up calls.
6	Call Out
6	Animal Calls
1	Parking Citations

Calls for service were up again, we are pretty much at normal numbers from pre pandemic and we already are on track to exceed our numbers for July. Tourists are back.

Once again, I want to remind folks about hang up 911 calls, in July, we have already exceeded what June numbers above are and we are only a few days in. Please take care with your phones, know what activates the 911 emergency mode, each phone manufacture is different. We have put on our Facebook Page how to disable the iPhone version of this which was shared from another department.

Our new part time person has not officially accepted the offer yet, we should know any day now. Shortly after board approval to hire him, I was informed he was in the running for a full-time position elsewhere. There is another to look at if this one backs out, but we will have to consider the 3rd full time position for 2022 as part time help is nearly impossible to find, even the next option would not be able to work as much as we would like them to.

Our fiscal year for training has begun as of July 1, Sgt Rossberger and I will be heading to trainings to stay ahead of our needs in the near future.

If there are any questions or wish to discuss things within the department, please feel free to come talk to me.



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To: Town Board
From: William Defoe
Date: 8/6/2021
Re: Monthly Police Report for August 2021

During the month of July 2021, the La Pointe Police responded to the following:

260	Incidents/Complaints (calls for service)
46	Citizen Assists
2	Accidents
1	Civil Process
17	False Alarm/911 hang up calls.
3	Call Out
19	Animal Calls
10	Parking Citations

We are looking at a normal year regarding numbers, in previous years we would have an average of 300 calls for service for the month of July. The 4th of July was rather busy, and we were rather understaffed, but we held and made it through. After talking to several other agencies in the state, understaffing is a huge issue statewide, we will need to figure out how to lure candidates here to the island in the future.

Fireworks continue to be an issue, and it is mostly tourists that do not realize that most fireworks are not legal here. In layman terms, if it goes in the air or explodes, it is not legal here in Wisconsin. We understand that there are several places to get fireworks, under state law, they can not be launched without a permit. There are very few places in the state you are allowed to light them.

Animal calls were definitely up, please keep an eye on those pups that like to run. On another animal note, put your garbage away, we have had calls of Bears in garbage.

Our new part time officer has started and is currently in field training for the next month. So far, he has been a quick learner and should be ready to go solo in September.

If there are any questions or wish to discuss things within the department, please feel free to come talk to me.



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To: Town Board
From: William Defoe
Date: 9/8/2021
Re: Monthly Police Report for September 2021

During the month of August 2021, the La Pointe Police responded to the following:

346	Incidents/Complaints (calls for service)
58	Citizen Assists
2	Accidents
1	Civil Process
14	False Alarm/911 hang up calls.
6	Call Out
9	Animal Calls
10	Parking Citations

Wow, August was busy with numbers just as high as pre covid.

We have been busy with traffic enforcement for speed, we have received a few complaints regarding the speed in various parts of the island. We even netted a speeder that was travelling near 100 MPH on Big Bay Road. With school starting, we would like to remind everyone that fines go up in the school zone which is marked with yellow signs. Also, if you are to pass a school bus with their lights on, the fine is currently \$326.50. Please, slow down, give yourself time and stop for the school bus.

We have also been part of the national campaign Drive Sober or Get Pulled over. This program gets us the chance for an equipment grant for the Department of Transportation. The program ran from August 20 to September 6th, the department did net one intoxicated driver offense.

At the beginning of August, I attended the Wisconsin Leadership Foundation training in Green Bay. It was good to get back to training with my peers once again, it is valuable leadership training. As we are into a new fiscal year for training, we will be looking at sending officers to trainings as ones that fit our departments needs become available.

If there are any questions or wish to discuss things within the department, please feel free to come talk to me.



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PHONE: (715) 747-6913
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police@townoflapointewi.gov

To: Town Board
From: William Defoe
Date: 10/7/2021
Re: Monthly Police Report for September 2021

During the month of August 2021, the La Pointe Police responded to the following:

293 Incidents/Complaints (calls for service)
60 Citizen Assists
1 Accidents
1 Civil Process
17 False Alarm/911 hang up calls.
7 Call Out
4 Animal Calls
2 Parking Citations

Its over!!! Summer is over, bring on the cooler temps, colorful trees and a well deserved slow down for all the island residents, speaking of slowing down, we are still seeing quite a few people exceeding the speed limit on the island. What is odd is that it is quite a bit more than previous years, please remember that there is no speed limit higher than 40 anywhere on the island and be watchful for changes in speed limits, we have signs with flags on them and signs with flashing lights around the speed limit sign, for some reason, those signs are still being ignored.

September saw quite a few 911 hang-up calls again, more than August, please know your phones. These calls tie up dispatch and officers time needlessly.

Officers are taking some training, in September two officers attended their biannual required Emergency Vehicle Operations Course with Bayfield County. Three of our officers are schedule to attend a one-day training on Domestic Violence in Red Cliff on October 6.

I attended a regional Police Chiefs Meeting in Rice Lake in September, I can honestly say that employment problems are still high within the profession, there are currently 30-40 openings in NW Wisconsin and only 9 people in the Rice Lake academy, 4 who are already hired somewhere. If you feel the need to serve your community, now is the time to sign up to go to the academy if you already have 60 college credits, I can help you with that.

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To: Town Board
From: William Defoe
Date: 11/3/2021
Re: Monthly Police Report for November 2021

During the month of October 2021, the La Pointe Police responded to the following:

142	Incidents/Complaints (calls for service)
32	Citizen Assists
1	Accidents
0	Civil Process
6	False Alarm/911 hang up calls.
3	Call Out
1	Animal Calls
3	Parking Citations

Well, there is a coolness in the air, the leaves are almost gone, and it is budget time, proving that the hard work we do all summer continues into the winter. The incident numbers have decreased as the visitors to the island have decreased. For some reason, we are still having issues with speeders, but mainly visitors. At least (for now) the numbers for 911 hang-up calls have gone down.

Three officers attended a domestic violence training that was held in Red Cliff at the beginning of October. We also had an inhouse training for firearms. We are trying to put together some more in house training for November and December with arrest tactic update and taser updates.

We handed out led flashing Halloween necklaces for Halloween night.

As I had stated in a previous report, there is an officer shortage all over the state and even worse here in the north woods. There are currently 10 police officer openings in the Chequamegon Bay Area and there is great competition to attain officers, even from other departments. One thing is for sure, there will be a lack of coverage with staffing issues that we will need to address if any of our guys leave for one of these positions. We need to come up with a reason for officers to come and stay here on the island before we have no coverage. What I have for coverage now will not last forever unless we become competitive in the market.

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To: Town Board
From: William Defoe
Date: 12/1/2021
Re: Monthly Police Report for December 2021

During the month of November 2021, the La Pointe Police responded to the following:

75	Incidents/Complaints (calls for service)
8	Traffic Stops
25	Citizen Assists
1	Accidents
4	Civil Process
3	False Alarm/911 hang up calls.
0	Call Out
0	Animal Calls
2	Parking Citations

November has come and gone, and it is like someone turned a light switch off. I guess that coincides with most of the businesses on the island shutting down for the season. Department activity numbers are down as a result.

Hunting season has come and gone with no real complaints, the number of hunters is down from years past, but I think that made it more relaxing out here. We saw some huge deer that were harvested this year. We did not respond to any trespass complaints or injured hunters this year during the season; however, we did have one trespass complaint that came in after the season. One thing I noticed is the number of non-hunters walking in the woods and on the roads not wearing orange, a few were even wearing brown. Please remember orange during hunting season is not for you to see the hunters, it is for the hunters to see you.

Officer Laakonen has left us and has taken a full-time position with the Bayfield County Sheriffs Office. We wish him luck in his future as a Bayfield County Deputy.

If you know anyone that would be interested in a career in law enforcement, please have them come talk to me about how they can get into the profession and possibly get sponsored by our department.

If there are any questions or wish to discuss things within the department, please feel free to come talk to me.