

Pequot Lakes Police Department



2017 Annual Report

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“This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer”

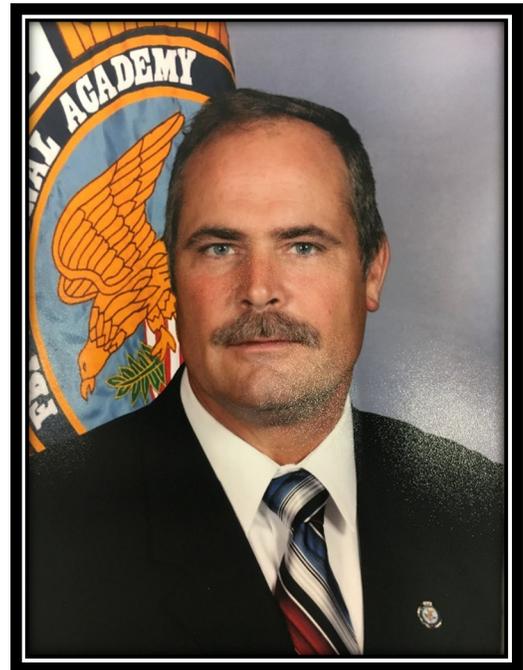
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF POLICE

I am pleased to present the 2017 Pequot Lakes Police Department Annual Report. Our community continues to enjoy a low crime rate which contributes to our high quality of life we all enjoy. Our foundational principle of Community Oriented Policing enables us to partner with our community members to identify, prioritize, and develop strategies to keep our community safe. Along with a low crime rate this report highlights our accomplishments this year that include prioritizing programs aimed at reducing the impact of methamphetamine on our community. Methamphetamine is a highly addictive drug and is the underlying cause of many crime and quality of life issues that face our community.

Addressing community mental health issues continues to be one of the most significant concerns affecting the manner in which the police department delivers service to our community members. Police officer training in Crisis Intervention Techniques (CIT) and a commitment to a newly organized "Mental Health Matters" This has been a passion of mine for some time due to a close friend who developed mental health issues at the age of 24 who was continually incarcerated but never charged for an offense.

I would like to thank the city manager, Nancy Malecha and you the city council for allowing me to serve as your chief. After 24 plus years I still enjoy this job of public service and coming to work each and every day.

I, on behalf of the men and women who serve this community, thank you for your support and commitment to the PLPD.



Chief Eric Klang

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric Klang". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Pequot Lakes Police Department

Mission Statement



*Dedicated to maintenance of
peace, reduction of crime,
protection of lives and property,
and professional service to
the citizens of our community*

POLICE DEPARTMENT PERSONNEL



Eric Klang, Chief
Serving since: 7/18/2011



Chad Turcotte, Sergeant
Serving since: 9/25/2013



Jen Anderson, Office Mgr.
Serving since: 3/14/2016



Kate Petersen, Patrol Officer
Serving since: 5/24/2006



Matt Jorgens, Patrol Officer
Serving since: 6/9/2014

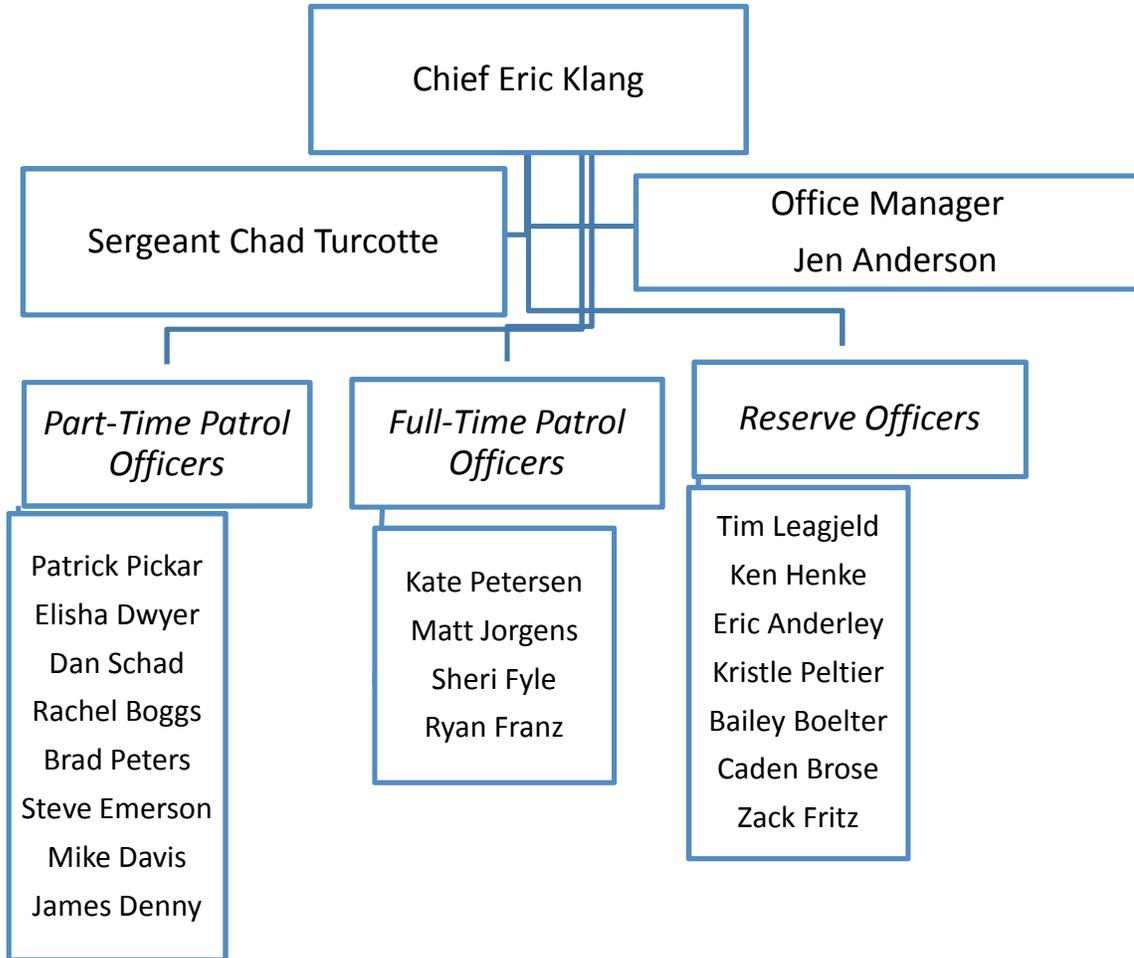


Sheri Fyle, Patrol Officer
Serving since: 5/18/2015



Ryan Franz, Patrol Officer
Serving since: 9/26/2016

PEQUOT LAKES POLICE DEPARTMENT CHAIN OF COMMAND



The staffing number indicates the number of sworn officers who were employed on December 31st of the given year. The actual number of officers who were available for work might be higher or lower during the year depending on the hire date or retirement date of an officer.

The number of officers on patrol is indicative of full-time sworn officers whose primary duties consist of patrol functions. In most years, the months of June, July and August are supplemented by one School Resource Officer who is otherwise assigned to work in the schools from September – May.

ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT AND RECORDS

The Pequot Lakes Police Department Administrative Support and Records Division is staffed only by an Office Manager (Jen Anderson) who is also the agency's TAC (Terminal Agency Coordinator).

TAC Responsibilities

The FBI's National Crime Information Center (NCIC) requires the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) to train and certify those who use the Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) terminals in Minnesota, and to manage the use of the MNJIS and NCIC networks within the State. The TAC helps the BCA manage the use of these systems by acting as the liaison between the law enforcement agency and the BCA. The TAC is responsible for ensuring that his/her agency complies with MNJIS and NCIC policies and procedures and must be knowledgeable in all aspects of MNJIS/NCIC and has the authority to implement changes and oversee the use of these systems.

Records Management Responsibilities

The primary role of Records Management is to collect, process, disseminate and maintain Department records in accordance with Federal and State Data Practices laws and Records Retention requirements. This Division also performs various administrative and support services.

In addition, the Office Manager has a variety of other responsibilities; greeting and assisting the public in person and over the phone, communicating with the Crow Wing County Attorney's Office and city prosecutor office on cases, submitting citations, updating statutes in LETG and fingerprinting when an officer is not available.

Property Room Technician

Our current Office Manager has gone above and beyond her duties at the department. As of the beginning of this year, the position of Property Room Technician was vacant. Jen expressed interest in this position and was sent to a two day course in Fargo, ND for training. Along with the supervision of Sgt. Turcotte, they both worked together in re-organizing the property room and refreshing the policies and procedures pertaining to the submission, tracking and purging of property in the police department's possession.

Forfeiture Coordinator

As of this year, the Minnesota Department of Public Safety requires each police department to declare one person as the Forfeiture Coordinator, to serve as a point of contact between that department and the state. Jen gladly accepted this role. As the Forfeiture Coordinator, she maintains a record of all forfeitures the department makes (guns, money, vehicles, etc.) and reports all information to State Auditor's office.

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER

The position of a School Resource Officer (SRO) can be a challenging but rewarding position for a Police Officer. The SRO serves as a liaison between the faculty and students of the Pequot Lakes School District and the Pequot Lakes Police Department.

The intent of the SRO position is to reduce juvenile delinquency and promote positive behavior by providing a positive role model. SRO Petersen assists with security of the students and staff during the school day as well as after school activities and events. SRO Petersen is also responsible for any criminal activity within the school and works closely with the school administration. When necessary, she is assisted by other PLPD Officers and Reserves Officers.

During the 2017 calendar year, some of the responses included: drug/alcohol/tobacco offenses, thefts, threats, harassment, medicals and vehicle accidents.

SRO Petersen is not only respected but well-liked by the faculty and students. In her down time at the school, she enjoys spending time in the gym with the special education class and visiting with students at lunch.



PREDATORY OFFENDER REGISTRY

At the end of 2017, there were 10 registered predatory offenders. There were no offenders classified as a Level III offender, three offenders were classified as Level II offenders, two offenders were classified as Level I offenders, and all others were not assigned a risk level. Risk Level 1 indicates the least likelihood to re-offend, Level II moderate likelihood to re-offend and Level III indicates a high likelihood to re-offend. It should be noted that Risk Levels were not put into place prior to January 1, 1997. That in mind, a 'not assigned' offender may actually qualify as a Level III but not actually classified as one due to being released from prison prior to the classification system being put in place.

In addition to monthly updates, officers made a minimum of four contacts during 2017 with each offender at their registered address to verify that the offenders were in compliance with the state's registration requirements. Digital pictures were taken of each offender in order to update the BCA files. Officers also verify other offender information such as vehicles, employment, housing situation and contact information.

The PLPD will continue to keep a current list of the predatory offenders living in our jurisdiction and continue to make contact with the offenders at their registered addresses to verify that the offenders stay compliant. In 2017 Officers did a total of 42 quarterly compliance checks.

VOLUNTEER RESERVE UNIT

The Pequot Lakes Police Reserve Unit is a group of volunteers from the Pequot Lakes and surrounding communities that assist the Pequot Lakes Police Department. Reserve Officers assist with residential and business security checks, sporting events, community events, medical calls and other duties and responsibilities assigned to them.

The unit works with numerous organizations within the area by providing security, traffic control and education. Our reserve unit has been requested to assist with other agencies after they have been seen as an asset for larger events.

Events that the reserve unit assisted with in 2017 include:

- Pequot Lakes High School volleyball, basketball and football games
- Jaycees Ice Fishing Contest
- Polar Plunge
- Crosslake St. Patrick's Day Parade
- Pequot Lakes High School Prom
- Bike Rodeo
- Pequot Lakes High School Graduation
- Cherry Car Show
- Market in the Park & Band in the Park
- Pet Parade
- July 3rd & 4th festivities
- Beanhole Days
- National Night Out
- Chokecherry Festival
- Dru Sjodin Run
- Nisswa City of Lights
- Santa's Bobbin' into Town
- Christmas for Kids

During 2017, the reserve officers donated 1,231 hours of their time. At the current minimum wage for an Officer, this was an approximate annual savings to the department of \$26,000.

Current Reserve Officers are Eric Anderley, Bailey Boelter, Caden Brose, Zack Fritz, Ken Henke, Tim Leagjeld, Kristle Peltier, and Officer Kate Petersen, reserve program supervisor.

SERVICES WE OFFER

Fingerprints

After spreading the word that we acquired an Identix fingerprint machine last year, our numbers for fingerprinting surged. Our fingerprint machine allows us to take fingerprints quickly and efficiently, making it a convenient service. Citizens mainly come to our department if they need fingerprints taken for employment, firearms, foster care or day care. Fingerprints are taken on an ongoing basis by appointment only, Monday through Friday during regular business hours. There is a \$10.00 fee for this service.

House Watch & Extra Patrol

Citizens may request a house watch when their home will be vacant for an extended period of time such as a weekend away or a vacation home that will be vacant during the winter. House watch forms are available at our police department and on our web page.

Extra patrol requests may be made if there are ongoing concerns in an area. For example, a citizen may request extra patrol at an intersection in their neighborhood if several vehicles are rolling through the stop sign. These requests may be made with a phone call to the office.

House watch checks and extra patrol are performed by officers on both day and night shift. If an officer finds anything out suspicious at the location, they will investigate and notify the homeowner, if applicable.

The Pequot Lakes Police Department received 12 house watch requests as well as 9 extra patrol requests during 2017.

Community Education

At the Pequot Lakes Police Department, we pride ourselves on being able to share our knowledge with the public. In 2017, Officers Matt Jorgens and Kate Petersen spoke at local banks about financial fraud, scams and other potential incidents that can occur.

Gun Permits

Minnesota law requires a resident to have a Permit to Purchase or Transfer in order to obtain a handgun through a purchase, sale, gift, loan, assignment or other delivery from another person. If a resident has a valid permit to carry a handgun, that permit constitutes a permit to purchase.

The City of Pequot Lakes and City of Jenkins residents who do not have a permit to carry must go to the Pequot Lakes Police Department to apply for a Permit to Purchase/Transfer. State law requires law enforcement agencies to conduct a series of background-related checks to assure the eligibility requirements established in state law are met.

During 2017, Pequot Lakes Police department issued 40 gun permits to purchase to residents in the City of Pequot Lakes and the City of Jenkins.

TRAFFIC SAFETY & ENFORCEMENT

Hwy 371 Project

Highway 371 was expanded to four lanes from north of Crow Wing County Road 18 in Nisswa to north of County Road 16 in Jenkins. During this project, PLPD experienced an increase in incidences which included, but not limited to: crashes, extra patrol, construction traffic control for safety, driving complaints and motorist assists. In Pequot Lakes, the new Highway was realigned to bypass the city to the east while creating easy access points to city roads and businesses. Old Hwy 371 was renamed Patriot Avenue. This project also constructed:

- New County Road 11 with two roundabouts
- New road connections at County Road 168/107 and County Road 112, using safer Reduced Conflict Intersections
- Realigned the Paul Bunyan Trail which includes a new bridge over Hwy 371 in south Pequot Lakes



New Hwy 371 with Co Rd 11 overpass and roundabouts



DRUG DROP OFF PROGRAM

Prescription drug abuse is the fastest growing drug problem in the United States and in Minnesota.

Prescription painkillers can be helpful and beneficial for treating pain when properly prescribed by a licensed professional, used as prescribed, and stored and disposed of safely. But they are highly addictive and susceptible to misuse and abuse. If used, stored, or disposed of unsafely, they can be dangerous and sometimes deadly.

Opioids have killed more than 2,700 Minnesotans in the last 15 years. More than 80% of these deaths involved prescription drugs, and nearly 60% have occurred in the past 5 years.

Overdose deaths from opioids are increasing at an alarming rate. We are losing too many Minnesotans to painkillers, heroin, and other opioids. Nationally, every 25 minutes, a baby is born suffering from opioid withdrawal. Every day, more than 1,000 people receive emergency-room treatment for misused prescription opioids. Every year, prescription-opioid abuse costs about \$25.6 billion in lost workplace productivity.

Prescription drug abuse also can lead to the use of other “street drugs.” About 80% of heroin users previously abused prescription painkillers. Another opioid, called fentanyl, is 50-100 times more powerful than morphine and has caused overdose deaths in Minnesota.

The opioid crisis involves many stakeholders: people struggling with addiction and their friends and families, health care providers, pharmacists, insurers and third-party payers, employers, professional-licensing boards, law enforcement, and the criminal justice system.

In addition, improper disposal of unused prescription medications can lead to contamination of the watershed which presents a risk to both aquatic life and the general public.

To help combat these issues, the Pequot Lakes Police Department continues to participate in a state-wide medication collection program called Dose of Reality. We have a secure medication disposal box located in the lobby of the police department that the public can use to dispose of their unused medications. The medications deposited in the box are packaged, weighed, and transported to an approved disposal site.

The Pequot Lakes Police Department collection site became operational in October of 2015. We collected just under 40 pounds of medications through the end of 2017.



FORFEITURES

The following report is a compilation of records relating to property that was seized by the Pequot Lakes Police Department as being eligible for forfeiture. Most property seized as forfeitable property is obtained from drug or alcohol offenses. Alcohol related forfeitures only allow seizure of the vehicle used.

At the close of 2017, the department's forfeiture inventory includes 12 cases pending further action:

<u>PROPERTY SEIZED</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>REASON</u>
1997 Cadillac Seville	3/6/2016	Fleeing, drug offense
1998 Pontiac Grand Prix	4/13/2017	Drug offense
1998 Chevy Blazer	5/27/2017	Fleeing
1994 Ford Econoline	6/27/2017	Fleeing
2008 Mercury Grand Marquis	7/12/2017	Drug offense
2003 Pontiac Grand Am, \$100	9/3/2017	Drug offense
2008 Cadillac SRX	9/10/2017	Alcohol offense
2007 Chevy Silverado, \$216	9/11/2017	Drug offense
1997 Buick Regal, \$335	10/7/2017	Drug offense
2003 Volkswagen Passat, \$291	10/31/2017	Drug offense
\$289	11/28/2017	Drug offense

Forfeiture hearings are a civil matter and are conducted separately from the criminal hearings. Once the forfeiture hearing is complete, our office receives a memo on whether or not we were awarded the property or if it is to be returned to the owner.

When a vehicle is won, the city obtains the title and it is sold at auction. When guns or other property are won, they are either sold at auction or kept for department use. During the year, the Pequot Lakes Police Department was awarded 25 forfeitures that included cash, vehicles, guns and other property. As a result of these winnings, two guns were kept for department use and the department grossed \$12,326. Three others vehicles have been won and title transfers are pending so that they may be sold at auction.

OFFICER TRAINING

Providing high quality and cost-effective training for the Pequot Lakes Police personnel continues to be a priority. Professional training benefits the officers, the department, and the communities in which we serve. The department benefits by having well trained police officers, thus minimizing department liability. The communities also realize the benefits of having officers who have a well-rounded base of knowledge and experience in a variety of areas to better help them.

The Minnesota State Peace Officer Standards and Training (P.O.S.T.) Board and the Federal Government, through the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), continues to place training mandates on law enforcement. Our department continues to identify and use its resources to accomplish these standards. The P.O.S.T. Board requires Officers to complete 48 hours/credits of continuing education every three years to remain licensed.

During 2017, one of our training resources was through “Patrol On-Line”. This is computer based trainings which cover P.O.S.T. Board trainings as well as OSHA mandated trainings. With this program, they continue to add additional topics as our legislators continue to pass laws that are often extremely complicated, unfunded, and have very little guidance regarding proper criminal procedure for officers to follow.

Officers attended a wide variety of trainings from paramedic to legal and other mandatory and elective training. Officer Ryan Franz also attended Drug Recognition Expert training over a three week period where he graduated first in the class of over 30 officers from throughout the State of Minnesota.

SOCIAL MEDIA

As of last year, the Pequot Lakes Police Department’s Facebook page has had increased success due to frequent posting and sharing. All members of our department have access to post on the page and the ability to answer private messages. In a group effort, we are able to keep the page active. Through our page, we have successfully fielded questions, concerns and tips regarding criminal activity for our community members.

EVENTS



*Top: Officer Kate Peterson with Special Olympics athlete, Abbey Nelson at the Polar Plunge;
Below: Polar Plunge site on Pelican Lake, Breezy Point Resort*



Chief Klang conducting a tour for the Pequot Lakes Tiger Scouts



Officer Sheri Fyle showing the Tiger Scouts the equipment in her squad car

From left, Reserve Officers Tim Leagjeld, Ken Henke, Bailey Boelter and Kristle Peltier with Defensive Tactics instructor, Chuck Scott (2nd from left) at training



Chief Klang accepting the Special Olympics Torch Run torch from Beltrami and Hubbard County law enforcement



Sgt. Chad Turcotte (left) and the flight crew of the Life Link III helicopter at National Night Out



Reserve Captain Eric Anderley by the police car display at National Night Out



From left: Officer Sheri Fyle, Sgt. Chad Turcotte, Officer Kate Petersen and Office Mgr. Jen Anderson at Christmas for Kids

CALLS FOR SERVICE – BY TYPE

911 Hang-up	10	Property Crash	75
Alarm	118	Protection Order	3
Animal Complaint	67	Public Assist	45
Assault	4	Suicidal Person	14
ATV Complaint	2	Suspicious Activity/Person	144
Burglary	9	Theft	118
Child Maltreatment	1	Threats	9
Civil Dispute	27	Trespass	4
Criminal Sexual Assault	2	Vulnerable Adult	1
Damage to Property	18	Welfare Check	62
Dangerous Dog	1		
Death Investigation	3		
Disturbance	49		
Domestic	20		
Driving Complaint	84		
Drug Information	18		
Fight	4		
Fire	30		
Fraud	9		
Gun Permit	42		
Harassing Communication	13		
Hazard in Road	38		
House / Extra Patrol	21		
Information	137		
Intoxicated Person	22		
Medical	241		
Missing Person	9		
Motorist Assist	63		
Noise Complaint	14		
Parking Complaint	34		
Personal Injury Crash	7		
Predatory Offender	21		

CALLS FOR SERVICE

The charts below illustrate the 2013 through 2017 general statistic comparisons. It is important to note that these fluctuate as cases carry over from year to year. Please note that this is only a snap shot of the activities that our Department engages in and should in no way reflect all of our activities.

While the number of cases filed by the department on an annual basis fluctuates, internal factors can influence the number of cases in addition to outside influences.

