



# THE LAKELAND TIMES

## OFF TO STATE!

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## Oneida County sheriff's department requesting charges for Punzel

### Charging request is for misconduct in public office, perjury, obstructing

By Richard Moore  
OF THE LAKELAND TIMES

After completing an investigation, the Oneida County sheriff's department is requesting that felony charges for misconduct in public office

and perjury, as well as for misdemeanor obstructing, be filed against former Minocqua police officer Kaleb Punzel, according to documents obtained by *The Lakeland Times*.

In an April 15 report,

reporting officer captain Terri Hook said the investigation showed that Punzel had breached multiple Minocqua departmental orders.

"Officer Punzel violated the Wisconsin Police Officers' Code of

Ethics which outlines the duties of all police officers throughout the state of Wisconsin," Hook wrote. "More specifically, officer Punzel violated five of the Minocqua Police Department

See **Charges**. . . page 18

## Lost Lake goose cull issue to be on June town meeting agenda

By Brian Jopek  
OF THE LAKELAND TIMES

The St. Germain town board will have on its next regular meeting agenda a project at Lost Lake to cull geese there.

Town chairman Tom Christensen said that would happen following comments made by former town treasurer Marion Janssen and others at a special meeting held on May 26.

Previously, the town board was brought up to speed on — and indicated its support for — the project during another special meeting on April 28.

Town supervisor Ted Ritter, who said he'd been in touch with both the Lost Lake District and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR) regarding a goose problem at Vandervoort Park in the Lost Lake area, provided the update.

"Lost Lake has had a rapidly-growing population of geese for several years now," Ritter said at the April 28 meeting. "I have walked across there (Vandervoort Park). You have to be very careful where you step. I mean, there is goose (excrement) everywhere."

He said the situation gets "worse and worse" because the geese wander around the park.

"Now, just think about what it's doing to the lake," Ritter said. "There are goose nests all around that lake and it's really causing problems."

He said the lake association has researched the matter to see what could be done.

"There is a program that is apparently a joint program between the state DNR and the USDA (United States Department of Agriculture) Aphis Wildlife Services," Ritter said. "And it is designed to essentially eradicate the goose population."

### 'Doesn't sound like a problem'

Janssen couldn't respond or engage in a long discussion at that time as it wasn't on the agenda.

She asked, however, that the matter be placed on a meeting agenda.

"I was really upset about it when I heard about it," Janssen said of the plans for the Lost Lake goose cull. "I'm an animal lover. I did start researching what was said, what was done ... my whole goal is to ask you to put this as an agenda item for the next town board meeting so we can go over some of the details."

Janssen said she'd sent information to each town board member and has "hard copies" of all of it.

Regarding Ritter's April 28 update

See **Cull** . . . page 19



TREVOR GREENE/LAKELAND TIMES

## EXPLOSIVE TRAINING EXERCISE AT RHI

Rhineland firefighter John Weigel prepares fire hoses during a full-scale simulated aircraft disaster training at the Rhineland-Oneida County airport on Thursday, May 26, in Rhineland.

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## Local veteran makes Florida state trooper an honorary 'Batcat'

### Whipple: 'When you risk your life for somebody, it means something'

By Trevor Greene  
OF THE LAKELAND TIMES

On Sunday, March 6, Florida Highway Patrol trooper Toni Schuck risked her life when she intentionally crashed into an intoxicated driver, stopping the person from plowing into a crowd of around 7,000 people with a BMW.

"I knew I was the last one," Schuck said, according to a March 10

*Sarasota Herald-Tribune* article, still recovering at the time from injuries she sustained in the incident. "In my mind, I'm thinking (the driver) is going to stop."

When the incident happened, Schuck was working security for a 10K race near Tampa, Fla.

The driver blew past the barricades and a number of other law en-

forcement officers before Schuck, who was the last of the security personnel who had a chance to stop the driver, did so.

Following the incident, and roughly 1,550 miles north in the town of Presque Isle, U.S. Air Force veteran Stuart Whipple took notice of what Schuck did. He

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# Charges

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ment's General Orders."

Hook wrote that Punzel should be charged with obstructing for providing false information to investigators as well as the officers who responded to assist him in the incident that prompted the investigation. The recommended perjury charge stems from allegedly providing false material statements to the court about the incidents that occurred on June 11, 2020.

Punzel had been placed on paid administrative leave pending the outcome of the investigation into an incident in the summer of 2020 in which the officer brushed aside repeated pleas for help by a man who had been calling 911 to report that a woman acquaintance could be in im-

mediate danger.

Ultimately Punzel resigned from the department.

In the incident, Punzel arrested the man for drunken driving — that was dismissed but he was convicted of reckless driving-endangering safety — but refusing to head to a nearby residence where the man said his acquaintance was being held and was in danger, and Punzel relayed no sense of urgency either to other responding officers or in his communications with police dispatch, records obtained in an open records request show.

The man at the residence in question was Punzel's contractor for a bathroom project, and Punzel had received three calls from the man, prompting him to head toward the residence, where he encountered and detained the 911 caller in a traf-

fic stop. In addition to calling 911, the detained man repeatedly told Punzel that he thought his friend could be in danger.

Punzel stated that he had a conflict of interest and could not respond. Much later, after assisting officers arrived, Punzel gave those officers the acquaintance's purse, which was in the detained man's vehicle, to return to her at the residence.

It took police more than 90 minutes after the man's first 911 call for police to arrive at the residence.

The woman that the 911 caller was worried about, whom *The Lakeland Times* is not naming, subsequently said she was sexually assaulted during the time Punzel was dismissing the seriousness of the threat. She filed a notice of claim against the town of Minocqua, the Minoc-

qua Police Department, Punzel, and the man she alleges to have assaulted her.

## The sheriff's department's investigation

In a supplemental report dated April 15, Hook reported that the most "egregious" failure by Punzel was his failure to obtain assistance for the woman reported to be in immediate danger.

Though Punzel told the man he had detained for drunken driving and who was calling 911 for help for his acquaintance that he had contacted dispatch and that he told dispatch to start a call for the disturbance reported at the house, there was no evidence of any such call, Hook wrote.

"[T]here are no records of this in the New World Records Management system nor are there any calls between Officer Punzel

and Dispatch where Officer Punzel tells Dispatch that law enforcement needs to go to [the] residence to check on this disturbance," Hook wrote. "So no one was aware that there was an issue at [the] residence except for Officer Punzel."

In addition, Hook continued, when Punzel's dispatcher was contacting other agencies, the dispatcher never mentioned a disturbance, only that Punzel had a traffic stop with an intoxicated driver and needed assistance because there was a conflict of interest.

"The only statement Officer Punzel makes to dispatch about there possibly being a second issue is when officer Punzel tells dispatch, 'I have a 10-55 driver and a conflict of interest on the second half,'" she wrote. "During Officer Punzel's interview, Of-

ficer Punzel confirms this is the only statement where Officer Punzel said anything to Dispatch about the conflict occurring at the house."

What's more, Hook wrote, the body camera footage of an assisting Woodruff police officer shows that when Punzel shared information about the issue at the residence with that officer and a Lac du Flambeau officer, Punzel did not share the 911 caller's concern about the safety of his acquaintance.

Punzel also failed to provide information to responding officers, placing them in danger, Hook wrote.

"Officer Punzel did not share with any of the assisting law enforcement officers that the original and only 911 calls came from [the detained man] who

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# LEGAL NOTICES

## NOTICE PLOW TRUCK RFP

The Northland Pines School District will accept proposals to purchase One New ¾ ton or larger, full size pickup truck suitable for snow plowing. Please visit [www.npsd.k12.wi.us](http://www.npsd.k12.wi.us) for details on the proposal process or contact Dave Bohnen, Building & Grounds Director, at [dbohnenn@npsd.k12.wi.us](mailto:dbohnenn@npsd.k12.wi.us) or by phone at 715-479-5031.

The Northland Pines School District is an equal opportunity employer and reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals. 29,31 WNAXLP

## NOTICE TOWN OF ARBOR VITAE BID REQUEST

The Town of Arbor Vitae is seeking bids for crack sealing of various town roads. The specifications for applying the crack sealer and the type of sealer to be used may be picked up at the town office between the hours of 9:00AM and 3:00PM, Monday through Friday. Deadline for receipt of sealed bids will be Tuesday, June 14th, 2022 at 3:00PM. Bids will be opened at the General Board meeting on June 15th, 2022 at 6:30PM.

The Town Board reserves the right to reject any or all bids or accept the bid they would be the most advantageous to the town.

Emily Bierter, Clerk 28,29 WNAXLP

## NOTICE

The Ashland County Housing Authority is requesting bids for Installed Weatherization Materials in Area 1 - Douglas, Bayfield and Ashland counties, and Area 2 - Iron, Oneida, and Vilas counties. Bids are due by 4:00 P.M., Wednesday, June 22, 2022. The work will generally include insulating attics, floors, sill boxes, and sidewalls, as well as installing LED's, water saving devices, and smoke/CO alarms. The awarded bidder(s) will have access to used equipment such as: Force 2 insulation machines, Minneapolis blower door fans with DG700 pressure gauges, infrared cameras, and laptops for diagnostic forms. To request a bid packet, please contact: Neil Deering with Ashland County Housing Authority at P.O. Box 349, 124 Wilderness Drive, Mellen, WI, 54546, or call 715-274-8311. 28,29 WNAXLP

## STATE OF WISCONSIN, CIRCUIT COURT, ONEIDA COUNTY Notice and Order for Name Change Hearing

Case No. 22CV97

IN THE MATTER OF THE NAME CHANGE OF

Lori	Jane	Musial
First Name	Middle Name	Last Name
By (Petitioner) Lori	Jane	Musial
First Name	Middle Name	Last Name

### NOTICE IS GIVEN:

A Petition was filed asking to change the name of the person listed above:

From: Lori	Jane	Musial
First Name	Middle Name	Last Name
To: Lori	Jane	Verbos
First Name	Middle Name	Last Name
Birth Certificate: Lori	Jane	Mast
First Name	Middle Name	Last Name

### IT IS ORDERED:

This Petition will be heard in the Circuit Court of Oneida County, State of Wisconsin:

Judge's Name: Honorable Patrick F. O'Melia  
Place: Oneida County Court House  
Rhineland, WI 54501  
Date: July 20, 2022  
Time: 11:30 A.M.

If you require reasonable accommodations due to a disability to participate in the court process, please call 715-369-6120 prior to the scheduled court date. Please note that the court does not provide transportation.

### IT IS FURTHER ORDERED:

Notice of this hearing shall be given by publication as a Class 3 notice for three (3) weeks in a row prior to the date of the hearing in *The Lakeland Times*, a newspaper published in Oneida County, State of Wisconsin.

BY THE COURT:  
/s/ Patrick F. O'Melia  
Circuit Court Judge  
05/25/2022

90249 29,31,33 WNAXLP

## NOTICE

The Manitowish Waters Town Board is accepting bids for road work for the 2022 season. Specifications for proposed work may be obtained by contacting Clerk Dana Hilbert at PO Box 267, Manitowish Waters, WI 54545, or by e-mailing [clerk@mwtown.org](mailto:clerk@mwtown.org). Bids must be received by 1 PM on Tuesday, June 14, 2022. 27,29 WNAXLP

## NOTICE

### Request for Bids

The Town of Winchester - Vilas County  
The Town of Winchester will be accepting sealed bids for project for specific roads for the year 2022. A project list can be obtained by calling Town Chairman Joe Discianno at 630-546-1265. Sealed bids should be delivered to the Town office located at 7228 County Road W, Winchester, WI 54557 before 6:00 PM on Monday June 6, 2022. Bids will be opened and discussed at the regular Town Board meeting Monday June 6, 2022 at 6:00 PM at the Winchester Municipal Building.

The Town Board reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informalities in bidding, and to accept the bid deemed most advantageous to the Town.

Joan Wainio Town Clerk 24,25,26,27,28,29 WNAXLP

## NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the Lac du Flambeau Board of Appeals will hold public hearing on **Tuesday, July 12, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.** at the Lac du Flambeau Town Hall, 109 Old Abe Road, Lac du Flambeau on the following:

Request for a reduction in the road setback to 0 feet from the ROW.  
OWNER: William M Mainus  
LOCAL ADDRESS: E Muskesin Lane, Lac du Flambeau  
LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Government Lot 5, Section 20, Town 41N, Range 5E

Said petition is available for inspection at the Lac du Flambeau Town Hall, 109 Old Abe Road, Lac du Flambeau, WI.

Anyone having an interest may attend and be heard. Interested parties who are unable to attend may send written comments to the undersigned. The committee members will do an on-site inspection on their own, prior to the hearing.

Request from persons with disabilities, who need assistance to participate in the hearing should be made to the Lac du Flambeau Town Offices at 715-588-3358; with as much advance notice as possible.

Joy Hanser, Chairman  
Lac du Flambeau Board of Appeals  
P O Box 68  
Lac du Flambeau, WI 54538  
107043 29,32 WNAXLP

## NOTICE OF RATE INCREASE

Water Customers of the Lakeland Sanitary District #1  
This is to give you notice that the Lakeland Sanitary District #1 will increase water rates with the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin (PSC) authority. Rates for general service will increase 4.5 percent. The increase is necessary to reduce the existing deficiency in present rates. Rate increases granted under Wis. Stat 196.193 do not require a public hearing. The effect of the increase for some selected customers is shown below. Public Fire Protection and Wholesale rates (if applicable) will also increase 4.5 percent.

General Service - Metered Quarterly Service Charges			
5/8" - inch meter	\$14.54	3 - inch meter	\$90.41
¾ - inch meter	\$14.54	4 - inch meter	\$132.39
1 - inch meter	\$22.60	6 - inch meter	\$213.12
1 ½ - inch meter	\$39.40	8 - inch meter	\$345.51
2 - inch meter	\$63.29	10 - inch meter	\$429.46

Plus Volume Charges:  
First 40,000 gallons used each quarter: \$2.22 per 1,000 gallons  
Next 460,000 gallons used each quarter: \$1.55 per 1,000 gallons  
Over 500,000 gallons used each quarter: \$1.08 per 1,000 gallons  
Lakeland Sanitary District #1 will apply this rate increase effective July 1, 2022. If you have any questions about the rate increase or would like a full copy of the docket, please call the Lakeland Sanitary District #1 at (715) 356-4454. 90252 29 WNAXLP

## NEA Crossword Puzzle

### ACROSS

- 1 Beethoven piece
- 5 Henson or Carrey
- 8 Animal pouch
- 11 Move to the beat
- 13 Previous
- 14 Corrida cheer
- 15 Automaton
- 16 Contacted
- 18 Stoolie
- 20 Snare
- 21 Not fresh
- 23 Everest or K2
- 24 Fair grade
- 25 Be compliant
- 27 Medicinal plant
- 31 Derisive snort
- 32 Jamaica exports
- 33 "Cheers" regular
- 34 Big — elephant
- 36 Diet
- 38 Cooking spray brand
- 39 McEntire of country

### 40 — — -foot

- pole
- 41 JFK posting
- 42 Mensa stats
- 44 Elevate
- 46 River rapids
- 49 Fitness centers
- 50 Handwriting style
- 52 Fill with joy
- 56 Chicago airport code
- 57 Stovetop item
- 58 Plumbing problems
- 59 T, in Athens
- 60 Fem. saint
- 61 Get groceries

### DOWN

- 1 Roulette bet
- 2 Duffer's goal
- 3 Numero — section (hyph.)
- 4 Bookstore section (hyph.)
- 5 Quick pull
- 6 Temper

### Answer to Previous Puzzle

SIFT	VOLS	MEA
ABLE	IVAN	APR
KEEL	DIDACTIC	
EXALTED	PITCH	
EGO	LPN	
CAPRI	LAYERS	
ADO	FAIR	SITE
NASA	READ	FAN
MYRIAD	IRENE	
OCT	TOO	
CAUSE	BIRD	DOG
ON	RECORD	NAPA
LOS	ARIA	ETAT
ANA	PEEL	YALE

- 7 Intended
- 8 Carnaby St. locale
- 9 Brewery products
- 10 Surrender territory
- 12 Tabloid staffer
- 17 "— the Barbarian"
- 19 Interstellar clouds
- 21 Kid
- 22 Fixed-up building
- 23 Enigma
- 24 Scorch
- 26 Throw off heat
- 28 Strides along
- 29 Take the podium
- 30 Austen work
- 35 Fasteners
- 37 Shiny paint
- 43 Swab brand (hyph.)
- 45 Dots in the sea
- 46 Highlander
- 47 Emanation
- 48 Pakistan's language
- 49 Heredity factor
- 51 Cistern
- 53 Ooh
- 54 Marciano stat
- 55 Psychic's power

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
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			18		19		20				
	21	22				23					
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39					40				41		
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46	47	48			49						
50					51		52		53	54	55
56					57			58			
59				60					61		

## Charges

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reported to Officer Punzel numerous times that [the detained man] was concerned for the safety of [his acquaintance],” she wrote. “[The detained man] repeatedly told Officer Punzel that the welfare of [his acquaintance] should be checked because [the detained man] had concerns about [the man at the residence’s] intentions with [his acquaintance].”

In the 30 minutes that Punzel and the man he detained were alone, Hook wrote, it was apparent that the detained man’s main concern was his acquaintance’s safety.

“This concern should have been shared with the responding officers,” she wrote. “They were not informed about the serious and consistent pleas that [the detained man] made for Officer Punzel to respond immediately and check the welfare of [his acquaintance].”

Punzel repeatedly told other officers and the man he detained that he had a conflict of interest in responding to the residence — the man at the residence was his contractor. Punzel had also been called previously in the evening by the man at the residence, but when assisting officers arrived on scene, Hook wrote, he told them only about statements that the man at the residence had made to him, omitting the statements that the detained man was giving him.

“Again, only providing one side of the incident could have put the responding officers in danger, as they were not aware that there was a safety concern for [the female acquaintance] and based on Officer Punzel’s report to them, this was now a property return call and a routine welfare check,” she wrote.

### Possible emergency

Hook also asserts that Punzel failed to report a possible emergency to dispatch and other officers. In fact, Punzel had not received just one call from the

man at the residence, but three.

During one of those calls, Hook wrote, Punzel told the Woodruff assisting police officer at the scene that he told the man at the residence to call 911 or dispatch and make a report. Punzel also told the Woodruff officer that they were supposed to call for assistance from another agency referring to dispatch, but, Hook wrote, there was no such incident in the log.

“The first this incident is referenced in the call log is the 911 call that [the detained man] makes at 12:53 a.m. and this call turns into the operating while intoxicated arrest,” she wrote. “There are no other calls in the log about this incident except the recording of a second open line 911 call from [the detained man’s] phone number and the sexual assault, which is reported on June 12, 2020 at 7:52 p.m.”

At no time did Punzel make it known that there was a disturbance except at the end when Punzel was speaking with responding officers and indicating that [the detained man] was now in custody which was why [the man at the residence] was calling, Hook wrote.

“Officer Punzel does not tell any of the officers they should respond with urgency to check on the safety of [the female acquaintance],” she wrote. “Obviously when Officer Punzel tells [the Woodruff officer] that Officer Punzel told [the man at the residence] to call 911, Officer Punzel felt there was an emergency situation or Officer Punzel would not have told [the man at the residence] this as it is common knowledge by law enforcement of officers that 911 is for emergencies only.”

Later, when Punzel appeared in court for the detained man’s drunken driving charges, Hook wrote, Punzel told the judge in a direct response to a question that he told the man at the residence to call 911.

“Officer Punzel knew there was an issue going yet Officer Pun-

zel never relayed that information to Dispatch or the other responding officers, which caused the first contact at the residence to occur at 2:38 a.m., over two hours from the first call [the man at the residence] made to Officer Punzel,” Hook wrote.

### Failure to prevent a crime

Ultimately, it took responding officers about two hours after the man at the residence first contacted Punzel to arrive at the residence where the woman was.

Officers found the man at the residence and the woman in the same bed together partially clothed, and, though the woman did not then report a sexual assault, she asked officers to take her away, Hook reported.

An Oneida County deputy who transported the woman found her to be confused and disoriented and did not remember parts of the evening but said she was not going to file rape charges, “just to call it consensual or whatever.” Her Preliminary Breath Sample was .23, Hook wrote.

Later, the woman reported to the Minocqua police that she had been sexually assaulted: “When [the woman] spoke with Officer Solberg, [the woman] told Officer Solberg that [the woman] did not consent to sexual contact with [the man at the residence]. [The woman] said her alcohol concentration had been very high for her and she believed she had been given something else that caused her to be disoriented and not remember.”

Quick police action might have averted what happened, Hook wrote.

“If Officer Punzel had alerted other officers or Dispatch to the fact that there was an issue that needed to be addressed at [the] home, the incident between [the man at the residence] and [the woman] may not have occurred as law enforcement could have intervened before it did,” she wrote.

Punzel also failed to

prepare an accurate and truthful report, Hook wrote. For instance, Punzel documented that the detained man repeated himself and asked Punzel numerous questions, though Punzel did not document that the detained man’s repetition and questions were about the safety of the woman and about Punzel’s lack of action to protect the woman.

“By omitting this information from his report, Officer Punzel’s report is not accurate and portrays the situation different than it was,” Hook wrote. “Officer Punzel from the beginning of the call said that Officer Punzel could not respond to the house because he had a conflict of interest and did not want his bias to interfere with the call. Yet, Officer Punzel’s bias does interfere in how he responds to [the detained man] and how he wrote his report by omitting [the detained man’s] ongoing pleas for assistance for the woman.”

### Perjury

In her report, Hook asserts that Punzel did not give truthful testimony in court, and cited multiple examples.

For instance, Hook wrote, Punzel testified that he came across a vehicle at the location where the 911 call was geolocating and testified that he did not know why they were there.

“This is not a truthful statement,” she wrote. “This vehicle is in the middle of a very rural location with the only house in the area being [where the woman was],” she wrote.

Then, too, when Punzel described in court what he found to be indicators of intoxication in the detained man’s speech, Punzel testified, “he repeated himself many times, seemed to not be able to or unable to comprehend the questions in which I had, which is why I had to repeat myself.”

“In watching Officer Punzel’s video, though [the detained man] did appear to be intoxicated, it is not this intoxication that has [the detained man] repeat-



PUNZEL, KALEB

ing himself,” Hook wrote in the report. “[The detained man] continued to ask Officer Punzel why he was not going to check on the safety of [the woman] when [the detained man] was telling him that something was not right at the house. [The detained man] even asked Officer Punzel and [the Woodruff officer] if they were recording the conversation because [the detained man] believed what was happening was wrong.”

The detained man went as far as calling 911 again and told the dispatcher that he wanted to make a record of the fact that Punzel was not helping [the woman], Hook reported: “Officer Punzel portrayed [the detained man’s] repeated questions as an indicator of intoxication by omitting that [the detained man] was pleading with him to help [the woman].”

Punzel also testified that he had initiated action to try and get investigators to the house to investigate [the detained man’s] complaint by immediately requesting an additional unit to come.

“This is not truthful testimony,” Hook wrote. “Officer Punzel did not tell Dispatch that there was a disturbance at [the] house that needed to be addressed by officers. Dispatch called these other officers for back up in regards to a drunk driver investiga-

tion.”

The judge also asked Punzel why he did not go to the house, Hook reported.

“Officer Punzel again testified about the fact Officer Punzel did not feel safe about going to the house alone and that there was bad radio coverage,” she wrote. “It should be noted Officer Punzel did not tell anyone the evening of the incident that it was for officer safety reasons that Officer Punzel did not go to the house. Also Officer Punzel did not tell the responding officers they should be concerned for their safety.”

“Punzel attempted several times to say that he did not believe the detained man when that man said there was an issue at the house because the detained man was intoxicated, Hook wrote, attempting to use that as an excuse about why Punzel did not go to the house.

“Officer Punzel was already aware that there was a problem at the house because he had received three phone calls from [the man at the residence],” she wrote.

All totaled, Hook wrote, she was requesting charges for misconduct in public office, perjury, and obstructing.

*Richard Moore is the author of the forthcoming “Storyfinding: From the Journey to the Story” and can be reached at richardmoorebooks.com.*

## Cull

From page 1

and references to a goose-culling program through the DNR and USDA, Janssen indicated in her contact with DNR personnel on the matter, the agency hasn’t approved the goose extermination.

What she was told, she said, was there would be census taken of the geese population

there once eggs were hatched “prior to doing any cull on that lake.”

Janssen said she attended the May 5 Lost Lake Association meeting and has gone over the association’s meeting minutes posted on its website and hasn’t been able to find actual approval for the project but has found where there had been discussion regarding the use of nearly \$1,000 in town money to possibly help

fund the project.

She said Lost Lake is around 540 and in doing her research, she found that there were probably 15 nests and no more than 30 geese.

“Mom and dad, maybe some babies,” Janssen said. “That’s 30 geese. That’s not a lot of geese.”

She said when the issue was first brought up, it was made to sound like there were hundreds of geese, if not more “that were

landing on Lost Lake and causing a problem.”

“If you’re only going to go after ... 30 geese, that doesn’t seem like an overpopulation problem,” Janssen said, adding she’s been to Vandervoort Park, it’s ideal for geese and there are other ways to keep them away, such as fencing or letting the park’s grass grow.

“They don’t like (tall) grass,” she said.

“That’s what brings these geese ... people on the shoreline with their manicured lawns ... they might not see a predator that might go after them.”

Vilas County supervisor Marv Anderson, a former St. Germain town supervisor, and his wife, Karen, also residents of Lost Lake, were at the May 26 meeting. Karen Anderson told the board there have been times the couple has had

more than 25 geese in their yard.

“And then, I look over at the park and I see ... all these little kids, playing softball, there are an awful lot of them,” she said. “People having picnics and it is packed with geese and I will tell you I would not want my child running in the mess that the geese are leaving. I think it’s a health hazard.”

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