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Village will pay Marine Division to patrol lake

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The Wolverine Lake Village Council has agreed to contract with the Oakland County Sheriff's Department Marine Division to patrol the village's namesake on weekends and holidays between Memorial Day and Labor Day.

A final patrol schedule has yet to be formalized.

"We haven't specified the hours yet, but they'll more than likely be similar to last year's," said Village Council President John Magee.

One of the reasons the council opted to contract with the Marine Division was the agency's scheduling flexibility.

"The hours before were typically noon to 8 p.m. on weekends and holidays, but that may fluctuate slightly this year," said Wolverine Lake Police Chief Joe George. "Council went with Oakland County because of their flexibility."

Last summer the village specifically trained and designated a Wolverine Lake police officer to monitor activity on the lake at a rate of \$22 per hour. Oakland County charges \$32 an hour for marine patrols.

"That cost includes the deputy, the boat and its depreciation, and gas," George said. "This could be a savings for us because we needed to put money into our boat, which we'll hold off on; so as a result, we will realize a savings."

"When we calculated the costs of the officer and the equipment, Oakland County's rate was less than ours," Magee said. "One problem is the (village) police boat engine needs replacement. We're looking for ways to save while providing the same level of service."

The contract with the Marine Division also mitigates the problem of manning the lake when village officers are needed on road patrol.

"We're down to bare bones," George said. "We'll give it a year trial and see how it works out."