

Marine Division contracted to patrol Pine Lake

June 16, 2010

The Pine Lake Property Owners Association has agreed to pay the Oakland County Sheriff's Department for marine patrol services on Pine Lake during 2010.

The Oakland County Sheriff's Department Marine Division will provide lake patrol services on weekends and holidays with trained part-time deputies. The Pine Lake association will pay \$3,500 to the Sheriff's Department for those services, and deputies will be paid on an hourly rate.

A proposed marine patrol agreement first came up for approval at the West Bloomfield Township Board of Trustees' Monday, May 17 meeting. However, a consensus couldn't be reached because of issues regarding liability.

Both sides were able to come to an agreement on limited liability during the Board of Trustees Monday, June 7 meeting.

The liability portion of the agreement states that the association will protect the township, its officials and employees against costs and attorney fees in defending any lawsuit filed in relation to marine patrols.

"This way Pine Lake receives patrol coverage and the township is pleased that its residents will be safe," said Township Trustee Steve Kaplan.

The township board also approved a blanket contract between the township and the Oakland County Sheriff's Department Marine Division at the June 7 meeting. The Marine Division now can patrol any lake in the township where property owners sign a contract.

The practice of keeping Oakland County Sheriff's Department Marine Division patrol boats on more than two dozen county lakes was ended after the 2009 boating season, because the money simply isn't there to continue the practice. Those who seek lake patrols must now contract with the Oakland County Sheriff's Department for marine patrols at the rate of \$32 an hour.