Public Perception of a Police Department Consolidation

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Introduction
This thesis will examine the public perception of the consolidation of two of Michigan’s small police departments, The City of Walled Lake and the Village of Wolverine Lake into one larger, more efficient police department.

Geographical Information (Moran, 2007)
City of Walled Lake
Population: 6,713
Geographic: 2.5 sq. miles, includes residential, commercial, and lake.
Approximate Savings: estimated at $300,000 per year, including personnel, equipment, and opportunities afforded by participation in the Federal DEA task force.

Village of Wolverine Lake
Population: 4,415
Geographic: 1.7 sq. miles, includes residential and lake.
Approximate Savings: estimated at $200,000 per year, including personnel and equipment.

History of the Walled Lake & Wolverine Lake Police Service Sharing Agreement
August 1994 – Wolverine Lake transfers afternoon dispatch to Walled Lake, beginning an era of increased cooperation between the departments, including automatic mutual aid.
2005 to 2007 – Plante & Moran studied consolidated police and fire services for four communities: Wixom, Commerce, Walled Lake, and Wolverine Lake. Study funded by Oakland County CCRIF (County Capital and Cooperative Initiative Revolving Fund).
February 2007 – Joint scheduling agreement reached. Both departments scheduled and organized as a single department with 12-hour shifts on patrol. Patrol, dispatch, records, lock-up
centralized in Walled Lake. Wolverine Lake Police Department facility closed to the public.

**February 2007 to May 2008** – Communities negotiated a permanent shared services agreement. Negotiating teams included elected officials, staff, and police personnel.

**June 2008** – Shared services agreement in effect. Officers deputized in both jurisdictions.

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**The current Walled Lake & Wolverine Lake Police Shared Services Agreement**

Contract term of initial shared services agreement is five years. Dispatch agreement extended three years. Both Agreements set to expire June 30, 2013.

**Shared Services Agreement**

- Officers from each community remain employees of that community.
- Communities agree to use best efforts to concurrently negotiate future union contracts.
- Equipment and other expenses split 2/3 Walled Lake and 1/3 Wolverine Lake.
- New combined logo Badges on uniforms and cars - logo created by members of department.
- Forfeiture dollars will be used to increase and enhance future investigations, training, equipment, operations, and programs including drug education and awareness, and a new/updated police headquarters. In accordance with Federal law, forfeiture dollars will not be used to replace or supplant current budget or resources of the department.
- Agreement contains clauses for dispute resolution and disengagement from agreement.
- Wolverine Lake pays for a part-time officer for lake patrol.

**Advantages beyond cost savings:**

- Smaller overall force without a reduction in total patrol time – greater visibility;
- Ability to operate a 12-hour shift schedule, increasing road coverage;
Better able to schedule around vacations, court time, disability, etc.;
More overall force available for large events such as hydroplane races and fireworks;
Decrease in overtime hours necessary to handle incidents, prisoner pick-up, acquiring warrants, and maintain in-custody processing through the courts;
Improved command structure/oversight - more efficient use of support and command staff;
More effective management of vehicle depreciation, by spreading mileage between communities’ combined patrol cars and rotating vehicle purchases;
More opportunity for advancement and broader experience for officers;
Able to dedicate one officer to DEA task force - opportunity to share drug forfeiture dollars;
One Wolverine Lake officer assigned to detective, whereas previously there was just one Walled Lake Detective - Due to this combined effort; we currently have lowest number of open cases in recent history.
**In the beginning...**

At the outset of this study, the goal was to obtain enough information to be able to measure the satisfaction of the people in the communities that are served by the departments involved in the consolidation effort (Walled Lake and Wolverine Lake Residents). Since that time, several factors may have influenced the survey that was distributed.

After reviewing the returned surveys, there does not appear to be a noticeable difference in the replies, (no out of character responses toward members of either department).

This survey was a simple, multiple choice, 11 question survey that was available online for any resident of the City of Walled Lake or Village of Wolverine Lake. It was hosted online at the City of Walled Lake Web-site, and the results reflect that the overwhelming majority were indeed, Walled Lake residents. (20 of the 24 surveys received on-line were from Walled Lake residents.)

http://www.walledlake.com/Forms/survey/survey.html

The “hard copy” or two sided survey was mailed to the Village of Wolverine Lake residents as an insert with the Village newsletter “Village Lite” which was mailed on May 1st, 2009. A deadline of June 1st, 2009 was noted on the survey and returns were relatively light. They received 75 “Hard Copy” returns from the Village of Wolverine Lake mailing for a grand total of 99 received surveys by the deadline. (This included the 24 Walled Lake on-line surveys received). The surveys were either dropped off at the Village hall (51%), mailed at the resident’s expense (24%) and the remaining were submitted via e-mail (25%).
The Survey
Walled Lake / Wolverine Lake Police Survey

In an effort to provide a better service and to help us understand how we can serve you better, we are asking you to fill out a short survey. Please return or submit them online or to your local City or Village Office by June 1st, 2009. This effort will assist us in determining how we can best reach our goal of making the Walled Lake / Wolverine Lake communities the safest in the area!

What community do you reside in?
Walled Lake b) Wolverine Lake

Were you aware the Village of Wolverine Lake / City of Walled Lake are currently working as a Consolidated Police Department under a shared services agreement?
Yes b. No

Have you had any contact with the Consolidated Wolverine Lake/Walled Lake Police Department in the last 2 years? (If you answered “Yes” to this question, please proceed to question #4. if you answered “No” please skip to question #7).
Yes b. No

Were you satisfied with the response time provided by the Police Department?
Yes b. No
Please rate the quality of services that you received during your experience with the Police Department

Excellent  Good  Fair  Poor  Don’t Know

Overall attitude and helpfulness of the officer who responded to your situation?

Excellent  Good  Fair  Poor  Don’t Know

Are you currently satisfied with the level of service being provided to your community by the Consolidated Police Department?

Very Satisfied  Satisfied  Neutral  Dissatisfied  Very Dissatisfied

Looking at the overall police services for your respective communities, do you believe they are:

Excellent  Good  Fair  Poor  Don’t Know

What is your perception of the Safety and Security within your community?

Excellent  Good  Fair  Poor  Don’t Know

How satisfied are you with the existing level of traffic enforcement?

Very Satisfied  Satisfied  Neutral  Dissatisfied  Very Dissatisfied

Do you believe traffic enforcement activity should be increased?

Yes  b.  No
Overall, what is your perception of the police Department’s efforts regarding Criminal Activity?

Excellent  Good  Fair  Poor  Don’t Know

Remarks*

A “Comment” area was created on the back of the Village of Wolverine Lake mailer to fill the remaining space of the survey. Most of those returned survey’s have comments added and will be included in this paper.
Walled Lake on-line Survey
The City of Walled Lake participated in the survey by building a web page linked to their City web-site.

This web page [http://www.walledlake.com/Forms/survey/survey.html](http://www.walledlake.com/Forms/survey/survey.html) was specifically designed for this paper but was not publicized in any form. Thus, the results are very limited to those who discovered it while on the City of Walled Lake’s web site.

What community do you reside in?
Walled Lake (83%) 20  b) Wolverine Lake (17%) 4

There were 24 surveys submitted on line with 20 identifying themselves as Walled Lake residents and 4 identifying themselves as Wolverine Lake residents.

Were you aware the Village of Wolverine Lake / City of Walled Lake are currently working as a Consolidated Police Department under a shared services agreement?
Yes  (100%) 24 b. No (0%)

All of the respondents of this survey were aware that the Police Departments are currently working under a shared services agreement. This may have been due to the fact that the agreement was on the same web page as the survey.
3) Have you had any contact with the Consolidated Wolverine Lake/Walled Lake Police Department in the last 2 years? (If you answered “Yes” to this question, please proceed to question #4. If you answered “No” please skip to question #7).

Yes (88%) 21  
No (12%) 3

Out of the 24 surveys received, 21 stated that they have had contact with the Consolidated Police Department, only 3 had not.

4) Were you satisfied with the response time provided by the Police Department?

Yes (84%) 18  
No (16%) 3
Out of the 21 respondents, 18 stated that they were satisfied with the response time, with only 3 stating that they were not satisfied with the response time.

5) Please rate the quality of services that you received during your experience with the Police Department:

Excellent (38%) 8  Good (33%) 7  Fair (9%) 2  Poor (19%) 4  Don’t Know 0

Out of the 21 respondents that have had contact with the Consolidated Police Department they rated the quality of service as follows, 15 were a positive (good or better) rating compared to 6 that were rated “Fair” or “Poor”.

6) Overall attitude and helpfulness of the officer who responded to your situation?

Excellent (38%) 8  Good (38%) 8  Fair (4%) 1  Poor (19%) 4
76% of the contact with an officer of the consolidated police department appears to be favorable with a small number (23%) of people that rate the contacts “fair” or “Poor”.

7) Are you currently satisfied with the level of service being provided to your community by the Consolidated Police Department?

Very Satisfied (41%) 10  Satisfied (33%) 6  Neutral (21%) 5  Dissatisfied (4%) 1  Very Dissatisfied (0%) 0

8) Looking at the overall police services for your respective communities, do you believe they are?

Excellent (54%) 13  Good (29%) 7  Fair (12.5%) 3  Poor (4%) 1
9) What is your perception of the Safety and Security within your community?

Excellent (25%) 6 Good (50%) 12 Fair (21%) 5 Poor (4%) 1

10) How satisfied are you with the existing level of traffic enforcement?

Very Satisfied (29%) 7 Satisfied (41%) 10
Neutral (16%) 4 Dissatisfied (12%) 3
11) Do you believe traffic enforcement activity should be increased?

Yes (54%) 13   b. No (45%) 11

12) Overall, what is your perception of the police Department’s efforts regarding Criminal Activity?

Excellent (29%) 7  Good (29%) 7  Fair (29%) 7  Poor (8%) 2
These 12 questions/ on-line replies were a very small sample of the response from the overall communities regarding the Consolidation of the Police Department, (A total of 24 on-line responses, 20 from citizens of Walled Lake and 4 from citizens from Wolverine Lake.)

**What is your perception of the Police Departments effort regarding Criminal Activity?**

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<td>Excellent</td>
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**Wolverine Lake Residential Survey**

The Village of Wolverine Lake agreed to mail the survey as an insert of the “Villager Lite”, the Annual Village Newsletter.

Approximately 1000 surveys were dispensed on or around May 1\(^{st}\), 2009 by U.S. Mail bulk rate.

By June 1\(^{st}\), 2009 (Stated deadline), only 99 surveys had been returned to the Village Office by mail or dropped off in person. The only difference between the Walled Lake “On-Line” survey and the “Hard Copy” or mailed version, is that Question #1 was eliminated due to the fact that it was only mailed to the Village of Wolverine Lake residents. The survey question numbers will be adjusted to reflect the same number to the Walled Lake survey. (Question # 1 will be skipped, What City/Village do you reside).
Were you aware the Village of Wolverine Lake / City of Walled Lake are currently working as a Consolidated Police Department under a shared services agreement?

Yes 94%  No 6%

Have you had any contact with the Consolidated Wolverine Lake/Walled Lake Police Department in the last 2 years? (If you answered “Yes” to this question, please proceed to question #4. if you answered “No” please skip to question #7).

Overall Helpfulness of the Officer who responded

Excellent 75%  Good 8%  Fair 0%  Poor 14%  Don’t Know 3%
**Public Perception**

**Were you Satisfied with the Response time?**

- Yes: 89%
- No: 11%

**Overall Helpfulness of the Officer who responded**

- Excellent: 75%
- Good: 8%
- Fair: 0%
- Poor: 14%
- Don't Know: 3%
Many citizens are aware that cut-backs had to be made to survive and therefore are willing to give up certain “perks” or services that had been previously provided.

Obviously we have work to do in this area. I realize that this is a small cross section of people, but 20% would equal about 1000 persons who only think we are doing “Fair” or “Poor”
The major crime rate actually was up 41% for 2008 with the largest number increase in Larcenies (FBI Statistics) (F.B.I., Mar. 2009)

Our traffic enforcement was extremely down in 2008. The revenue generated was down to 1/3 of what it has been in the past. This may be due to new technology (Ticket printers installed in vehicles) or the “newness” of the expanded territory or officer cover.
In reviewing the “remarks” section provided on the survey, there was mention of the need for officers to patrol the residential streets more and enforce stop signs and speeding vehicles.

This is one area that we do feel was improved on because of the consolidation. There are now 2 detectives in the Detective bureau and they complement each other very well. We have the lowest number of open cases in recent history.
Narrative:

**Walled Lake:**

An overwhelming majority of the respondents have had some contact with the consolidated police departments in the last 2 years. If the citizens have had contact with the police department, they probably have been given a complaint number on a Walled Lake pre-printed form with the City of Walled Lake website printed on it. This may explain the unusually high number of citizens served. This may also be attributed to the fact that they (the citizens/respondents) want to feel like they are involved and have a say in the future of the Police Department.

The below listed categories are a few of the responses that need further explanation:

**Response Time:** Although small in number, the citizens that were not satisfied with the response time may not understand the complexity and nature of priority runs and how officers are dispatched. There may have been several factors that could have contributed to a delay in response time such as the small number of officers working at one time (understaffed), officers engaged in other law enforcement duties (booking prisoners, working accident scenes or interviewing suspects.) For example, if an officer is dispatched to a crime in progress (Such as a Larceny from a store). This would take a priority to a call of a larceny of a bicycle that was just discovered. It may delay the response time to up to an hour if an arrest is made in the crime in progress call. For a citizen that is standing in his front yard waiting 45 minutes for the police to arrive, this may seem unacceptable. Realistically, this is going to happen on occasion.

**Quality of Service:** This rating can be a bit misleading and the posed question may not be as clear as it could have been. Sometimes the citizens may not like the results of the police action and feel that they didn’t get the desired results that they expected.
Helpfulness: Again, this category may have been a little misleading. Upon arriving at a scene, officers must make judgments of what they see taking place at the time and not what may have already occurred which could influence the results of that call. Many people call the police to help them solve a problem. Sometimes this “problem” is NOT a police matter (civil and not criminal) and officers can only offer suggestions but cannot take any action. With a few exceptions, Officers cannot arrest for Misdemeanors that were not committed in their presence.
Wolverine Lake:

The residents of the Village of Wolverine Lake have been very informed of any and all changes to the Police Department. Two town hall meetings occurred with a very large turnout at both. Both were overwhelmingly supportive of the police department and did not want to see a change in the size or see a consolidation of the Police Department. They have been very vocal regarding the decision making process. The citizens of Wolverine Lake are used to a very community oriented police department and contact with officers on a regular basis. This personal interaction between the officers and the community has been lacking since the consolidation took place. This is not necessarily the fault of the officer on patrol as much as an administrative decision to switch to a different style of management. Officers are now on 12 hour shifts and generally work with minimum manpower which leaves little time for public relations or community interaction. The Village residents were very used to the community policing style of service and interaction they received from their police department. The citizens of Wolverine Lake are still very skeptical of the Walled Lake officers. We believe that this will be reduced over time and as they get to know their names and faces. The skepticism of the consolidated police services may also be due to philosophical and managerial styles of performance between the two departments.
Summary:
When this piece began, our focus was to measure the public satisfaction with a newly formed consolidated police department. The results from the survey along with the remarks section is clear that the perception is that consolidation is a great concept and it does work. There does seem to be a demand for more focus on service and community policing.

The public’s perception regarding the consolidation may not be that diverse between these two communities, however that is not to say that the police departments are not different both in personnel and management philosophy.

We believe that there should be several factors weighed before undertaking such a consolidation in the future. These factors must be reviewed and decisions should be made as to direction, management style, and stability of the department (turnover).

In this case, each department has had its own management style and personality that is distinctly its own. The Wolverine Lake Police Department has a stable working environment with a Chief of Police that has been in office for over 12 years with 40 years of police experience. A management style that is participatory and involves officers in the decision making process. Officers employ a community policing style and have a sense of ownership and pride in their area. Officers take great pleasure in getting to know the citizens and becoming part of the community. This has been a very effective working atmosphere with great results supported by the community.

On the contrary, The City of Walled Lake has not shown a very stable working environment over the past few years. They do not currently have a “Police Chief” but have a Captain as “acting” Police Chief. There are no immediate plans to pursue a full time Police Chief and this leads to an uncertainty as to the future direction of the department. Up until recently, they worked with no City Manager but a self appointed “Management Team” made up of 3 part time councilmen. There was little direction or oversight from the administration or “management team” to the Police Chief or department as a whole. The Walled Lake Police
Department works as an autocratic or "authoritarian style" of management where the Chief makes all decisions. The officers are "Numbers driven" and have little or no concern or compassion for their citizens they serve. The Police Officers have very little contact with its citizens outside the normal avenues of police work, (Traffic Stops, complaint runs, etc). The Walled Lake Officers are young and very assertive. Very few Walled Lake Officers know or care to know about their community and its people. With the exception of a few business owners or chronic complaints, officers serve a relatively unknown population.

These are the types of things that can cause friction between departments on both the management and officer levels. This is compounded by the reaction of the citizens requesting certain "Wolverine Lake" officers to handle complaints. When a citizen knows the name of an officer, they feel a bond between them and would feel much more comfortable speaking to that officer when they need the police. When the citizens do not get the response they desire. A large portion of citizens in Wolverine Lake personally know the Chief, and they will make contact with him and voice their complaints. As a Chief, it is his responsibility to follow up on these complaints. This may also cause friction between the Chief and other officers who feel that they are being micro-managed.

Therefore, before any consolidation is considered, we feel many aspects must be considered besides the "Public Perception" or public sentiment of a consolidation. This process must involve a very self-critical review of management, staff and personnel. This along with an evaluation of the internal chemistry of the departments involved and the expectations of the communities they serve.
Comments from the surveys:

These comments come exclusively from the Wolverine Lake Survey that was mailed to each home. The on-line survey provided to the Walled Lake residents did not have an area for “remarks” or comments, therefore only reflect concerns or comments from Wolverine Lake residents.

- “My only concern is the use of sirens at all hours for emergency vehicles. Living on S. Commerce, This is really a nuisance to our peace and quiet. Having been a Police Officer for years I feel there is a little too much use of sirens mainly by firefighters. Otherwise you’re doing a great job!”

- “I did actually see a patrol car going up and down the streets of the Village on a regular basis which is comforting. Not really so often since we combined forces”

- “I live on a corner lot and now that police are consolidated, you may see the police 2 or 3 times a day and then not see them for another 3 days. About 80% of the traffic now runs the stop sign where it used to be about 35%. Someone will be hurt at the stop sign if the police don’t start stopping them.”

- “Well maybe there are a few who speed through our neighborhood... especially the corner of Ladd and Wolverine Drive”.

- “We could use more enforcement re; Boating- Enforcement in NO WAKE areas. Children driving boats: Drinking alcohol driving boats.”

- I Lived here for 20 years and haven’t noticed any criminal activity, I hope it continues this way. I would have officers volunteer to speak (in uniform) to the grade
school age children. I saw firsthand how positive it is to
the kids.”

➢ “The Police Department has been outstanding in every aspect
that I know of”.

➢ “Why not combine the clerk and treasurer’s job? Thank you
for the bike paths + Trails. Keep officers on the lake more
on weekends. Don’t allow boats and trailers to park over 2
weeks in driveway, also ticket cars and trucks that park on
lawn. Check on Woodlawn”

➢ “The officers of the Wolverine Lake Police Department have
graciously helped me on several occasions. They are
professional and thorough in investigating what they need
to.”

➢ “People are running the red light at S. Commerce Rd and
Glengary”

➢ “We miss the old Wolverine Lake Police Department and the
coverage that we used to receive. Now we are anxious about
crime and safety and feel as though it’s not a matter of IF
as much as it is a matter of WHEN we end up being the
latest victim of a crime. Attitudes by Officers in the past
left much to be desired in terms of cooperation, competence
and concern”.

➢ “I am very disappointed that while we are paying taxes to
both the Village and Commerce Twp, our services have been
reduced. Our community is paying more in taxes than
neighboring communities and getting equal or less services
depending on how you look at it. If we are cooperating with
Walled Lake, then shut down the Village Offices and save
the tax payers money - DO IT NOW. Bring parity - fairness
to us. We used to be able to say we had our own Police,
D.P.W. It is too expensive to run a building, pay our
Village staff...for what?”
"I don’t think we have the protection that we had when Wolverine was its own Dept. Wolverine is less patrolled, police presence is less."

"The police was called when my neighbor saw young teens leaving my yard. No police ever showed up. My house was robbed".

"I truly value our police. The only difference that I have seen is the decline of traffic enforcement since the consolidation, which is disappointing. Otherwise, keep up the good work!"

"Very poor driving by people who use local parks. Example—Speeding through Clara Miller Park while there youth games are going on! Parents are not paying attention. Speeding youths on Lakeview Dr. - They don’t even pay attention to the little green “Children Playing” signs that are posted. A lot of drivers are way too close to pedestrians. Understand that Officers can’t be everywhere all the time”.

"I reside at the corner of Ellington St. and Connecticut. I have called the police many times over the last several years, requesting an officer to observe and hopefully reduce the number of speeders on Connecticut. Many people, adults, teens, as well as service vehicles cut through our neighborhood to avoid the light at Glengary and Benstien Rd. Most exceed the 25 mph speed limit and many never stop at the stop signs on Connecticut. With the warmer spring temperatures we have a lot of kids on bikes, scooters, adults walking on Connecticut and it is dangerous. Please, between 4:00 and 6:00 when people are returning home from work, Dispatch an officer. Thank You"

"We notice regular patrols through the neighborhoods and appreciate them"

"Not sure why we need a Police Chief for the Village, Do our Officers report to Walled Lake?”
“Since the consolidation, I miss seeing our Wolverine Lake Police cars on my street – Wolverine Dr. as frequently as before. P.S. I’m 89 years old; I live alone and need to feel safe.”

“I would like your department to patrol more on McCoy. People seem to use it as a cut through from Benstien to Ladd Rd. The speed limit is 35 MPH but I see people in the morning doing 50 plus. There are also a lot of motorcycles and Hot Rods that like to “Open it up” on McCoy. I’ve been nearly run off the road many times. I do not however want Wolverine Lake to become a SPEED TRAP like Redford and Livonia. Be fair with people like you have been in the past.”

“Keep us as a Village- The small community is the specialness of living here. Our Officers are the BEST> Community leaders are of their time and talents. We are well run and up to date. Can’t ask for more. Thank you everyone, I’ve enjoyed my 35 years here.”

“We no longer have a police patrol with individuals who know the community and the residents. When I’ve called with a concern, the person answering the phone is not familiar with the Village or Village ordinances. Crime in my neighborhood has increased. There is no enforcement of certain ordinances –such as on-street parking during the winter or the burning of leaves and yard waste. I now feel it is a waste of time to call the police with my concerns. The Lake Patrol is ridiculous. There is little enforcement of boating regulations or noise. I called one evening last summer when a group on a boat played very loud music; they’ve been causing problems on the lake and being disruptive all summer. I was told that there was no one available to go on the lake and deal with these issues at night. Your newsletter said that a boat can shine a light into the lake to spear carp. The issue is that 1 boat with a dozen lights run by a very LOUD generator that move along the lake shore shining it’s lights into homes and waking up children and adults. This intrusion is mostly after 11pm.”
We have a noise ordinance. I can’t create noise after 11pm without risking a police visit. But these individuals with loaded cross-bows (not spears) can disrupt the entire lakeshore many times a week. Try noise and disturbing the peace - which have ordinances to address this. But no police to enforce it on the lake at night. Plus I doubt they know to do this anyway. I am disgusted to what has become of this once peaceful, orderly community.”

“A sign of the times- It will never be the same again. Since the merger, I’ve seen maybe 2 police cars on our street. Our community watches out for one another. I have seen more “Near misses” with Cell phone users. It is a terrible problem: every third or fourth driver is on a cell phone, totally ignoring speed limits and fellow drivers.”

“Before the Police Department merger, the Wolverine Lake Police Department patrolled my subdivision (Nantucket) at least 2 times a day. Helped to stop speeding through the sub. It also helped by being visible- I believe it helped stop thefts in our sub.”

“The quality of Police and Fire is excellent and very Professional. I have great respect for these men and women.”

“I don’t like some of the tactics of the Walled Lake Police Department Officers such as camping out and watching drinking establishments, or watching a stop sign in the subdivision. Shouldn’t they be spending their time more productively? Chief George is doing n excellent job for the Village.”

“I am wondering if the Chief patrols the same amount as the other officers do. It seems our Village is too small to have a Chief that doesn’t.”

“People speeding and running stop signs in residential areas. Police are NOT above the law- especially while off duty. They carry a gun and get out of jail free card. We
call it the badge WE put on them. Respect is constantly being lost.”

“Police need to remember their motto is “To protect and to serve” not to issue tickets. Blatant abuse must be stopped of course- ex. High speed boating/ jet skis after hours, OWI, etc. but remember, this is a small community, keep that in mind- Don’t need to issue tickets to residents for 5 over speeding, etc. (Becky List is famous for this!- and no- she never pulled me over) Thanks!”

“Status Quo is fine: Wolverine Lake Village does not need a Police Department or Fire Department.”

“They are doing a good job with the “tools” they have - Updating on-going education classes etc., to make our police force not just good, but the best for all involved. If I was angry and did not like what was happening to our Village, I would certainly make my feelings known. Many people in this world, including Wolverine Lake, have made mistakes and they are wonderful people now helping other people and giving back to the community – Together we stand- Divided we fall”

“I live at ___ Wolverine Dr and a stop sign was placed at my driveway. The only cars that some-what stop, are visitors. There are small children at this location - hard for me to understand why the speed of 50 MPH is still allowed!! A few speeding tickets may help- the word would then get around.”

“We live on Wolverine Dr. near S. Commerce Rd. The attempt break-in next door has us a bit on edge. There are folks that cut through from Ladd Rd which I know you cannot stop. The extra signs on Penny Lake Rd. have helped a little to slow down traffic, but once they pass the last one they race to S. Commerce Rd. from that intersection. Anything that you can do to slow down those people would be appreciated. Thanks for your hard work.”
“You are over staffed; too many police ready to pounce on drivers. This is a random theft out of pockets. There are too many police / cars. If they are spent giving tickets for 5 miles an hour over speeders on streets. It is a money maker. The number of tickets + dollar revenue has probably increased. It was a topic that was brought up at an informal Village and Walled Lake neighborhood gathering. This is making work and preying on us. My Tax dollars are not to be used taxing citizens through traffic ticketing. This is not how I want highly trained officers to work. Cut the departments and lower the taxes in this economy. Cut all pay to city workers. We are living on less.”

“When you have called the police 8 times for one barking dog and the dog is still barking- something is wrong. All the neighbors have called with NO RESULTS - HELP! (Corner of Palomas and Laguna).”

References

http://www.freep.com/article/20090512/NEWS03/90512089/1005/Walled+Lake+chief+used+city+credit+card+at+strip+club