

Water contract proposed

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Madison Village residents may see a dip in water rates this fall.

Village Council is seeking an agreement with the Lake County Board of Commissioners to purchase water from county utilities.

The proposed contract would shift the village from a surplus water customer to a retail water customer. The village also seeks an interconnect with the county water system at the southern end of town, the state Route 528 and River Road interconnect.

Madison Village's well field was deemed unusable in the early 1990s, leaving the village exploring other resources for water. The result was an interconnect with the Lake County Department of Utilities to purchase water, governed by a surplus water agreement. The agreement expires this September. The contract was introduced at the village council meeting on July 20, making the

we will then have the ability to have any of our usage that's high-volume delivered at a lower rate," said Dwayne Bailey, village administrator. "Right now, that's about half to two-thirds of our usage that would qualify for that lower rate because of the high volume."

Bailey said he hopes the ordinance and rates take structure as soon as September, if the village and county commissioners approve the contract. The concept, he said, has been in the works since 2005.

"That concept is that we become a full customer instead of a surplus water customer," Bailey said.

Shifting to a retail customer status guarantees the village water access. The county has a right to deny water to surplus customers because of shortages or larger customers, which could leave surplus customers seeking alternative water sources.

"By entering into this agreement, we will essentially own that capacity at the Lake County Department of Utilities facility."

cc:Rick, Randy