



The Recorder

Mission Statement: To Accurately Maintain Records of Residents and Landowners of Pope County for Generations to Come.

June, 2007

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Electronic Recording Comes to Pope County

In an effort to advance services, and with the assistance of US Recordings, Fidlar Software companies, Pope County IS personnel, and the staff of the Recorder's Office, the process of filing electronic documents officially began by the Pope County Recorder's office on Monday, April 2, 2007. The documents filed were Satisfactions of Mortgage submitted by US Recordings, a recording servicing company. At this point, Satisfactions of Mortgage, Assignments of Mortgage and Certificates of Release are documents approved for electronic recording. As of May 31, Pope County has processed 24 Satisfaction of Mortgages electronically. Another serving company, Ingeo, has recently come onboard to file documents.

A demonstration was given to internal department heads working with real estate on the day the process began. It took merely seconds to receive, file and return the documents to US Recordings. Additional documents are in the testing stage, with Mortgages to be the next transacted electronically. Warranty Deeds, along with an electronic Certificate of Real Estate Value will likely follow soon.

Many documents, especially Mortgages and Satisfactions come from other states to be processed in individual Counties. This e-recording process is being promoted by the real estate industry to improve and maintain turnaround time for documents for any volume, including that of the real estate boom of recent years. Recorders and other County officers are committed to keeping land records at the local level and to keep up with the technology of larger metropolitan counties. According to counties who came onboard earlier, approximately 8% of like documents are being recorded electronically.



Meeting Notice

Central Lakes Property Communication
Thursday, June 28, 2007 10:00 a.m. – 12:00

Hosted by: Virginia Mahoney
Stevens County Courthouse
Morris, MN 56267

Main Discussion Topic: Electronic Recording
Demo: West Central Indexing of Alexandria

Local Submitters

When submitting documents to be recorded, please hand them directly to a staff person in the Recorder's Office. The Recorder's Staff needs to be certain who the documents are received from in case of any questions, and to be certain to return them to the correct party.

County has Discontinued ABSTRACT OF TITLE Services

Effective June 1, 2007 the Pope County Recorder's Office is no longer in the business of completing abstracts of title. In February, the Pope County Board of Commissioners accepted a recommendation of a committee formed to look at whether the county should continue to provide abstract of title services. The recommendation was made and accepted for the Recorder's Office to discontinue abstract of title services (for continuation abstracts and tract inventories) effective May 31, 2007. Orders for new and recertifications were discontinued as of the date of the approval, February 20, 2007.

The timing was excellent since the real estate market is slower and there was a vacancy in the Recorder's Office that will not be filled at this time. Many counties who once provided abstract services are now leaving them to the private sector, and are looking to provide and improve "taxpayer" services. There are currently three private abstract companies located in Pope County, as well as three additional who travel to the County regularly.

One of the major components is the new statutory timeline coming into play by 2011 for all real estate documents to be in and out of all offices within 10 days of receipt. As part of the recommendation, a conjoined position has been created to work with the Recorder's Office, Auditor/Treasurer's Office and the Assessor's Office. The position will work with real estate splits and developments as received to better move through the recording process.

On behalf of Pope County, thank you to all who used the Pope County Recorder's Office for abstracting services during the past years. During my years as County Recorder, every attempt has been made to provide accurate and timely service to our customers. The Recorder's Office will continue to assist and advance in other areas.



Passport Update

The volume of passports applications continue at an all time high. The timeline for obtaining a passport has now risen to 10-12 weeks for a routine passport. Demands have been high with the requirement in place for a passport by air travel anywhere outside the United States. Expedite services are available with a current timeline of three to four weeks.

As the January 1, 2008 deadline nears for land and sea crossings, another busy year is ahead. This will add requirements for those heading to Canada on fishing trips, or those snowbirds traveling across to Mexico during the winter months. Anyone in need of a passport is encouraged to apply early.

Applications and Information is available by visiting www.travel.state.gov or at the Pope County Records' Office. Passport photos are also available at the Recorder's Office for new or renewal applications.