



The Recorder

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

October, 2007

Contents

Plat Statute Changes

Legal Description Technician

Laredo Users

Marriage Licenses

Passports

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Plat Statute Changes – Statute 505.21

There were a number of changes made to the plat statute which took effect August 1, 2007. While there are many other updates, following are those pertaining directly to the Recorder's Office.

- The Mylar copy will be the only plat copy required. There are no more hard shells. There may be times when a second mylar is created (e.g. when the property lays within a municipality); however, the hard white copy has been eliminated.
- There is only one plat size allowed under statute 505, which changed to 22 inches x 34 inches. Previously two size options were allowed.
- A Recorder can now reject a plat based on the name if it is the same or similar to another name on file in the County. Previously this was done as a courtesy, where now it is written in statute and can be deemed unrecordable. Proposed names need to be verified with the Recorder ahead of time.

Legal Description Technician

A new Legal Description Technician position now exists to assist with the flow of transfer documents creating a split or being platted. This position is a combined effort between the Recorder, Auditor/Treasurer and Assessor's offices. Johanna Henke, who works as an employee of the Recorder's Office, has taken on this position and has been working through the learning process. She has a great deal of experience with legal descriptions, as well as excellent computer skills. The more customer-oriented aspects of the position involve working with the creation of new tax parcels, determining acreages, and reviewing existing tax parcel descriptions when questions arise. Questions regarding the description or acreage on a tax statement are now forwarded for her review.



The past, the present and the future are really one: they are today.

Harriet Beecher Stowe

Laredo Online—Real Estate Search System

The use of the Laredo online real estate system has been increasing steadily. Many appreciate the daily update of incoming documents and the ability to search and print from their desktop. The system currently has 20 years of data/ images available, and ALL deeds will be the next major import of information. Thank you to our current users taking advantage of this service:

Alexandria Title Company
Capitol Lien Records
Country Land Abstracts
Integrity Title, Inc.
First American Real Estate Solutions
Lowry State Bank
Obenland & Roth
Phil Serrin (Minnesota Land Title)
Swartz Brothers Associates



If your company would like information on the online Laredo system, please view our website at www.co.pope.mn.us or contact this office directly.

Marriage Licenses

Effective August 1, 2007, the standard Statewide fee for a marriage license increased to \$110. For those having the required Affidavit of Pre-marital Education, the fee raised to \$40. The increase is to work towards the creation of a statewide index for marriage certificates. Currently, certificates are available only in the county where the license was originally issued.



Passport Update



The processing time for passports has gradually been improving. The current timeline for a routine application is 8-10 weeks. Demands are expected to become high as winter travels approach. Air travel requirements are in full force, with sea and land crossings in the near future.

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