



STATE OF MICHIGAN

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT & BUDGET
LANSING

BROM STIBITZ
DIRECTOR

MINUTES

Electronic Recording Commission October 6, 2020

This meeting was conducted virtually via the Zoom platform.

Commission Members Present: Chair Justin Roebuck, Deputy Chair Brandon Denby, Sara Dolan, Brian Henry, Sherri Irwin, Patricia Niepoth, Derrick Quinney, Dominic Rios

Also in attendance: Jerome Czaja, Chief Deputy Register, Kent County; Trisha Gerring, Chief Deputy Register, Ingham County; Rachel Sanchez, Chief Deputy Register, Ottawa County; and Deborah Stevens, Recording.

I. CALL TO ORDER.

The meeting was called to order by the Chair J. Roebuck at 11:05 a.m. A quorum was present.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

Motion: to approve the minutes of April 23, 2020.

Moved: D. Quinney

Second: S. Dolan

Passed: Unanimously

III. COMMENTS ON REVISED STANDARDS

A presentation was made to the Michigan Association of Registers of Deeds. The chair solicited feedback. P. Niepoth suggested more clarity would be helpful. The standards don't address the need for a seal. Issues surrounding papering out including mandating those documents be accepted or codifying them and acknowledgement of a verified transactional relationship were discussed. The need for more education since confusion over remote notarization still exists.

IV. FY2021 STATE BUDGET

The FY21 state budget reflected this language which appropriates grant funding to counties for e-recording:

Sec. 1047. (1) From the funds appropriated in part 1 for Michigan enhancement grants, \$600,000.00 shall be awarded to the electronic recording commission. From the funds appropriated, the commission shall expend up to \$200,000.00

annually this fiscal year and in the 2 subsequent fiscal years for grants to counties to facilitate or upgrade real property e-recording capabilities. These grants shall be distributed to counties following application to and approval by the commission. The grants shall not exceed \$12,000.00 per request and must be used to invest in or upgrade software necessary for the electronic recording of real property documents. The funds for the electronic recording commission are subject to the following: (a) The commission shall determine an appropriate percentage of total funds to be reserved for newly participating counties and counties which will expend the funds to upgrade the designated software. The commission may require a 10% match in funds from each county to which funds are awarded. (b) Unexpended grant funds appropriated in part 1 for the electronic recording commission are designated as a work project appropriation, and any unencumbered or unallotted funds shall not lapse at the end of the fiscal year and shall be available for expenditures for grants under this section until the grant program is completed.

Currently, 22-24 counties are not e-recording. Discussion favored reimbursement after funds were spent to simplify the process. Matching funds did not appear to make sense in this case. Due to an unknown reason, the funds were assigned to MEDC in the Labor and Economic Opportunity so they will be contacted to determine the grant process.

Next steps will be to develop an application, establish deadlines, and determine how to communicate this opportunity, especially to counties not e-recording now.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

Terms of office expire Jan. 1, 2021 for Brandon Denby, Justin Roebuck, and Patricia Niepoth. A link to the appointments application will be sent to commission members,

VI. SET MEETING DATES FOR 2021

The next meeting was scheduled for December 9, 2020.

2021 dates will be established in December. Determination of whether these meetings will be in person or held virtually will be determined at a later date.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Deborah A. Stevens
Recording Secretary