



STATE OF MICHIGAN

GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF TECHNOLOGY, MANAGEMENT & BUDGET
LANSING

MICHELLE LANGE
ACTING DIRECTOR

MINUTES

**Electronic Recording Commission
June 3, 2022**

This meeting was conducted at the Horatio S. Earle Learning Center, 7575 Crowner Drive, Dimondale, MI, 48821.

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

Also in attendance: Rachel Sanchez, Chief Deputy Register of Deeds, Ottawa County; and Deborah Stevens, Recording Secretary.

I. CALL TO ORDER.

The meeting was called to order by the Chair J. Roebuck at 10:03 a.m. A quorum was present.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES.

Motion: to approve the minutes of September 23, 2021 meeting.

Moved: P. Niepoth

Second: S. Dolan

Passed: Unanimously

III. APPROVAL OF GRANTS SUBMITTED

Motion: to approve reimbursement of funds related to electronic recording to Presque Ile County in the amount of \$6,000.00.

Moved: P. Niepoth

Second: D. Quinney

Roll Call Vote:	Sara Dolan	Aye
	Brian Henry	Aye
	Patricia Niepoth	Aye
	Meredith Place	Aye
	Derrick Quinney	Aye
	Dominic Rios	Aye
	Justin Roebuck	Aye

Passed: Unanimously

IV. OTHER BUSINESS

A. Commission meetings to require option for virtual attendance

Attorney General Opinion No. 7318 addressed the provision of reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities to participate in meetings subject to the state's Open Meetings Act (OMA), MCL 15.261 *et seq.*

It concluded that public bodies subject to the OMA must provide an option to participate virtually for qualified individuals with a disability, whether a member of a public body or a member of the public who wishes to participate in the meeting, who request an accommodation.

At this time, compliance is not required until April of 2023, and DTMB is expected to develop guidance prior to that time.

B. Outreach to Encourage e-Recording

The Commission discussed ideas of how to encourage counties to e-record and take advantage of the grant funding available. A memo will be developed to be made available to all counties and e-recording software vendors that highlights benefits and includes testimonials.

The Commission explored the possibility of requesting a legislative change that would allow a longer period of time to expend the allocated funds for e-recording. To date, only \$41,400 has been granted to five counties of the \$600,000 allocated, and September marks the end of the second year of the original three.

Challenges that have been identified include

- Lack of staffing to implement a new system, particularly in smaller, rural counties
- Lack of funding needed to upgrade hardware to accept new software
- Planned software system changes; introduction of a new module or software would be done AFTER or WITH any new system
- Lack of coordination between the register of deeds and treasurer's office
- Resistance to change.

The DTMB legislative liaison was contacted and will bring the issue forward to the appropriate budget contacts; and the lobbyist for the Michigan Association of Registers of Deeds will be contacted to provide support as well.

Motion: to urge the Michigan legislature to change boilerplate language to allow

- A two-year extension from FY23 to FY25 to expend the \$600,000 originally allocated
- An increase in the amount of each request from \$12,000 to \$25,000

- The addition of allowing reimbursement for hardware costs as well as software

Moved: P. Niepoth

Second: S. Dolan

Passed: Unanimously

C. The next meeting is scheduled for September 16, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:58 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Deborah A. Stevens
Recording Secretary