

## MINUTES OF THE JUDICIAL AND LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

DATE: June 22, 2021  
 TIME: 11:00 a.m.  
 PLACE: Room 114, Wood County Courthouse  
 TIME ADJOURNED: 12:07 p.m.  
 MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Bill Clendenning, Bill Leichtnam,  
 Kenneth Curry, Ed Wagner, Joseph Zurfluh  
 OTHERS PRESENT: Peter Kastenholz and Lance Pliml. See attached  
 list.

1. At 11:00 a.m., the meeting was called to order. All participants identified themselves.
2. Public comments. Most of the public attendees spoke at least once. The general tenor of the comments was that the Register of Deeds was doing a good job and they supported her handling of this matter. Several abstractors spoke in favor of their being able to use pens and having a cell phone on them when in the vault.
3. Conditions on public access to Register of Deeds vault.

Attorney Richard Bender, who owns a title company, has been frustrated with Register of Deeds Tiffany Ringer's policy that pens, cell phones, and brief cases are not to be brought into the Register of Deeds' vault. The Register of Deeds is trying to comply with regulations that provide that these items are not to be brought in the area where vital records are stored and since the vital records and land records are all stored in the vault area, the entire vault should be treated as the vital records area.

Discussion was had about what could be done to segregate the vital records as well as the level of need in making things more convenient to the abstractors. It was pointed out that title work can be done online, albeit, at a cost to the consumer.

The Committee recognized that Ms. Ringer is a constitutional officer and its role was to advise and avail the Register of Deeds with funds, if sought and necessary to resolve the problem.

At the end of the discussion there seemed to be clarity on the issues by those present.

**Moved by Wagner, seconded by Curry, to recognize that Register of Deeds Ringer has acted within her scope of authority and if she decides it is appropriate to seek funding from the County to make physical changes to the facility, specifically the**

vital statistics records area, she can bring such a request back to the Committee. 4 ayes, 1 nay. Zurfluh voted no as he thought the motion was unnecessary. Motion passed.

4. Moved by Zurfluh, seconded by Wagner, to adjourn at 12:07 p.m. All ayes.

Minutes taken by Peter Kastenholz.

