

To: House Government Operations Committee
From: Carol Dawes, Barre City Clerk/Treasurer
chair, VMCTA Legislative Committee
Date: March 12, 2019
Re: Clerk Fee Bill (no number yet)

Below is a summary of the items included in the draft bill:

- **Sec. 1.**
 - Calls for the following additional information to be included in the 3-year fee reports due to the legislature:
 - Revenues/expenses associated with the restoration and preservation fund.
 - Plans for digitization of land records.

- **Sec. 2.**
 - Clarifies that each entry on a document (i.e. a release) is a separate document and is charged accordingly.
 - Sets recording fees at \$15/page.
 - Sets recording fees for plats at \$25/plat.
 - Sets vault time fees at \$4/hour.
 - Sets PTTR recording fee at \$15/return (not per page).
 - Broadens the definition of the restoration and preservation fund (RPF) to include digitization and storage expenses.
 - Mandates the creation of a restoration and preservation fund at \$4/page. Includes language that allows a town to put more than that in the fund. Also allows a clerk to annually certify they have enough money in their fund so that they can reduce the amount put into the RPF for that year.
 - Mandates that unspent RPF money is carried over from year to year.

- **Sec. 3 & 4.**
 - Includes language about survey plats, and the requirement to submit a digital version of each plat to the Vermont Center for Geographic Information. Creates a statewide digital repository that's available to the public.

- **Sec. 5.**
 - Requires a plat to be submitted with any conveyance of land as a result of a subdivision or boundary change.

- **Sec. 6.**
 - Clarifies that a lien (such as from the VT Department of Taxes) is deemed filed when the clerk indorses (date stamps) it.

- **Sec. 7.**
 - Mandates that land records must be recorded within 10 days of indorsement (receipt), subject to extension due to illness or absence of the clerk.
 - Mandates that the town shall bear the cost of mailing recordings back.