

RESOLUTION No. 6-0808

SUPPORT OF A CHANGE IN THE REGISTER OF DEEDS RECORDING FEE FROM A “PER PAGE” TO A “FLAT FEE”.

WHEREAS, Wisconsin Act 339 created a statewide Land Information Program in 1989 for the purpose of facilitating land records modernization within each County across the State; and

WHEREAS the Iowa County Board, like other counties across the state, established a Land Information Office Committee in 1990 and reorganized in 1996 for the purpose of directing and supervising the County’s Land Information Program and Geographic Information System; and;

WHEREAS, Per Wisconsin State Statutes 59.72 and 59.43, each County funds its Land Information Program through real estate document recording fees collected in the Register of Deeds office (see attachment 1); and

WHEREAS, State Statute 59.72 allows the County to retain \$5 from the fee for recording or filing the first page of each instrument that is recorded or filed under s. 59.43 (2) into a Special Revenue Account to be used as follows:

- o \$4 is used to develop, implement, and maintain the countywide plan for land records modernization; and
- o \$1 is used to develop and maintain public access to land information through the Internet; and

WHEREAS, the retained fees to be used to develop, implement, and maintain land information is no longer sufficient to fund the County’s Land Information Program, and

WHEREAS insufficient funding could adversely affect the County’s ability to provide basic public records to our constituents and to support vital county services such as assessment mapping, E911, planning and economic development, land conservation, and other activities; and

WHEREAS, the real estate recording fees in Wisconsin are significantly lower than similar fees collected in neighboring states (see attachment 2).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Iowa County Board of Supervisors respectfully request the State Legislature that the Real Estate Recording Fee collected under State Statute 59.43 (2) (ag) be changed from the current \$11 for the 1st page and \$2 per page thereafter to a flat fee of \$25 per document and that the distribution of proposed the fee under State Statutes 59.72 (5)(a) , (b) and (b) (3) be changed to:

	<u>Present</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
DOA (State)	\$ 2.00	\$ 2.00
Co. Land Information Office	\$4.00	\$ 6.00
Co. Public Access Fund	\$ 1.00	\$ 2.00
Co. General Fund	\$ 4.00	\$ 15.00

Attachment 3 provides a comparison of current & proposed document recording fees.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution be forwarded to the Wisconsin Counties Association, State Senator Dale Schultz, State Assemblyman Steve Hilgenberg and Governor James Doyle.

Dated this 19th day of August 2008.

Respectfully submitted,

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, EXTENSION AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE