

Jim I am copying you due to your position as the realtor representative on the Land Information Council for Vilas County.

Matt I am copying you due to your position as President of NWAR.

I thank you both Barb and Steve for the recent conversations about the online map situation. My point of view is that Vilas County had the best online map data represented in the Legacy maps there was, compared to Oneida, Forest, Price, Iron, Lincoln, and Langlade counties, which I have experience with. Starting with the hand drawn maps cared for by the Tax Listing Department that were turned into the AutoCad format after years of effort by past employees in the Land Information and Mapping Department and under the supervision of the Vilas County surveyor.

The new parcel maps have completely taken a step backwards and deleted the history of how we got to today.

What has been removed is listed below in the order of importance as to what I feel should be reinstated on the parcel maps and why:

Tax Keys and combined computer numbers:

Tax keys always told you what 40 you were looking at, 1 being the NENE, 2 being the NWNE and so on, and at the same time delineated the division of government lots and 40's by all being in the same number sequence, for instance the NENE is divided into 1-1, 1-2, 1-3 and so on, Government Lot 1 is divided into g1-1, g1-2, g1-3 and so on when each successive piece was created and separated from the whole. This shows the hierarchy as to when the parcel was carved out of the entire government lot or 40. When I have to help a tax payer prove to zoning when the lot was created in order for the tax payer to build on a nonconforming lot due to present day zoning restrictions, that is invaluable. (Also the reference to a specific Vol. and page or document number was deleted. This number was the deed when the parcel was created, and the tax payer did not have to pay a title company to seek out the information, which zoning required but would not provide by doing the research themselves.)

The tax key showed the history of small parcels when combined together to make a larger piece. The hand drawn maps to the first computer maps, to AutoCad maps all showed the tax keys. Thusly recorded deeds, mortgages, easements etc. make reference to those tax keys.

This county does not require new surveys for parcels that have been piecemealed together. One parcel could have 3 separate legal descriptions to make it up. This chain of title follows each parcel, each successive landowner. Also this county does not require a survey when there has been extensive deeding, and the last piece left has an ugly description, just being a list of excepted parcels. Many deeds of record contain such a legal and have the corresponding tax key noted next to each exception for ease of figuring out what the tax payer owns on the legacy map.

Finally, I noticed that last year's Tax Bills do not show the tax key any more. Was that the first step in the County's grand scheme to eliminate data?

Subdivision names, lot numbers: These were better delineated on the legacy maps than the original plat maps that were recorded in the register of deeds office back in the early 1900's. This information is sent constantly to realtors, appraisers, attorneys and banks and now it will make no sense with the only identifier being a computer number. The Tax Key number in Vilas county has always coordinated with the lot number, i.e. Lot 1 is PL1, which matched the deed and thus the legal description being Lot 1 Subdivision name. The computer numbers run consecutively thru the 40's and government lots and new sequencing is created for subdivisions, etc.. It is impossible to tell by the computer number the change to a different 40, government lot, subdivision, etc., where one leaves off and another begins.

Section and 1/4 corner numbering:

They are gone. Why delete a record of government monument designation numbering.

Please see attached, the mapping history of a platted parcel mine actually, computer number 221-284. Also I have attached a lot that is a part of a plat and non-platted lands, computer number 14-1863. On line maps were printed today, September 14, 2012 with the old tax listing maps pulled from files in my office. We do not throw anything away that is used as a research tool. The above referenced points can easily be picked out on the attached maps when comparing one to the next. Frankly the computer numbers on the parcel map look like a dimension, and not a parcel identification number.

As an added note, when zooming in and providing a close up map as to a specific lot so the land owner, realtor, attorney can read the lot dimensions in order to trace out a legal to match to their deed or to determine frontage and acreage required on the State of Wisconsin online transfer return filed on each land transfer you have no clue as to where you are. On the Legacy map you could tell exactly by the Tax Key, filled in section corner circles, plat names etc..

Wrapping up, as a title examiner with over 16 years of experience in the title industry I have been providing information to realtors, attorneys, surveyors, appraisers and bankers. All professionals hired by the general public to complete a specific task that requires research and interpretation of the data of record. That data of record begins in the 1800's when the United States government granted land patents to the general public and started the chain of title that can be traced to each and every parcel that exists today, owned by the tax payer's of Vilas County. Yes your office is working for the tax payer, but they are paying the professionals to work for them. Why? The average tax payer does not understand what I spoke of above and how it affects them. It is up to the professionals that do understand to inform them and do the task at hand. Just because the tax payer's are not beating down your door, complaining about the lost data on the new parcel maps does not mean it is not important. The Legacy maps set forth THE BEST CONSOLIDATED REPRESENTATION of each and every tax payer's land data, in order to get the job done.

We owe it to the tax payers NOT to take a step backwards.

Personally, being a tax payer since 1993, I am requesting the transfer of all the data from the Legacy map to the Parcel map which should be updated from each and every document put of record in the Vilas County Register of Deeds office. This was the

course of business for the last 16 years of my personal experience in the industry and I want that back.

Thank you for your time.

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