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Clerk's Office to accept electronically filed forms

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LOCKPORT – A Niagara County Legislature committee approved a plan Monday to allow electronic submissions of deeds, mortgages and other real estate records to the County Clerk's Office.

The community services committee gave the green light to a proposal to offer the service through Simplifile, a Provo, Utah-based company that provides e-recording to counties in 42 states.

Residents will be able to contact Simplifile to have their documents filed electronically.

Deputy Clerk Wendy J. Roberson said she expects other companies to offer e-filing services to residents in the future.

Roberson said the service will be optional. People making real estate deals still may mail in their documents or present them in person, she said.

"This is something our county clerk has been working on for seven or eight years," Roberson said, referring to Wayne F. Jagow.

"There is no cost to the county from this vendor. They get their money from the submitters up front."

New York was one of the last states in the nation to allow electronic recording of real estate documents, and Niagara will be the fourth or fifth county to sign on, said Roberson.