



Legal Department

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Charlie Pierce
Borough Mayor

LITIGATION STATUS REPORT

TO: Kelly Cooper, Assembly President
Penny Vadla, President, Board of Education
Members, Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly
Members, Kenai Peninsula Borough School District

THRU: Charlie Pierce, Mayor CP

FROM: Colette Thompson, Borough Attorney CT
Sean Kelley, Deputy Borough Attorney SK

DATE: May 7, 2020

RE: Litigation Status Report – Quarter Ending 03/31/20

This report includes brief descriptions of pending non-routine court cases, as well as administrative appeals and code compliance enforcement actions set for hearing before the administrative hearing officer.

Following is a summary of the non-routine litigation in which the borough and school district are involved. This list does not include the real property tax foreclosures and numerous standard tax collection cases pursued by the borough:

1. John Does 1-3 v. Kenai Peninsula Borough School District et al., Case No. 3KN-18-00155CI. Three former students sued the school district, the Kenai Peninsula Hockey Association and former coach Bradley Elliott for damages stemming from alleged sexual abuse of minors, alleged negligent hiring and alleged vicarious liability. Mediations were held individually with each plaintiff on March 25, 26 and 27, 2020. Doe 1 settled at mediation and has been dismissed from the lawsuit. Mediation attempts with Does 2 and 3 were unsuccessful.

Page -2-

May 7, 2020

Re: Litigation Status Report

Trial is currently scheduled for the week of November 2, 2020. Discovery is continuing.

2. Halstead v. Jeremy T. Anderson and Kenai Peninsula School District, Case No. 3KN-18-00744CI. Plaintiff has sued Mr. Anderson and the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District for damages relating to Mr. Anderson's alleged sexual abuse of her as a minor. The complaint against the school district claims it failed to protect her from Mr. Anderson and seeks damages and actual attorney fees. The district has filed an answer and discovery is in process. The district also recently filed a motion for summary judgment against the plaintiff's claims for punitive damages against the district. Trial is currently scheduled for the week of January 18, 2021.
3. Diamond Willow Homeowner's Association v. Kenai Peninsula Borough and Consolidated Development & Management, LLC, Case No. 3KN-19-00355CI. An appeal of an approved plat was filed and a hearing held before the administrative hearing officer on March 1, 2019. At a hearing held on March 10, 2020, Diamond Willow and Consolidated Development indicated that they were going to submit a proposed settlement for this case and a companion case (3KN-19-00319CI) by April 1, 2020. Due to Covid-19, the court extended the date it expects to receive the settlement by to May 6, 2020.
4. Kenai Peninsula Borough School District v. Fischer, Case No. 3KN-19-00185CI. This case was filed against a school district employee for the reimbursement of substantial health care costs paid by the health care plan ("Plan"). The Plan requires that employees who receive medical care paid by the Plan, for injuries caused by a third party, must reimburse the Plan out of any recovery received from the party at fault. Reimbursement is owed because the employee received enough insurance funds from the party who caused the injuries to fully reimburse the Plan for its costs. Defendant has failed to pay the amount owed. Discovery is in process, Plaintiff filed a motion to compel defendant to provide disclosures which the court granted, and awarded Plaintiff's attorneys' fees relating to that motion. Defendant has filed a Partial Motion to Dismiss, and numerous other motions and oppositions have been filed. The scheduled trial week is currently July 6, 2020.

Page -3-
May 7, 2020
Re: Litigation Status Report

- B. Following are recently resolved or open cases for matters enforced pursuant to KPB 21.50, Violations and Enforcement, which were set for hearing before an administrative hearing officer:
1. Case No. 2018-19. A material site was operated in violation of its material site permit by operating in the required buffer area of the gravel pit. An enforcement agreement was entered. The planning commission approved a modification of the permit on October 28, 2019, which completed the terms of the enforcement agreement. This matter is now closed.
- C. Following are open or recently resolved administrative appeals from Planning Commission decisions:
1. Case No. 2019-02-PCA. Appellant appealed a planning commission decision approving the vacation of a drainage easement on Lot24-A, AA Mattox Peggi's Addition, KPB file no. 2019-048V. A hearing before the assembly was held on May 6, 2020, and a decision is pending.