



CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

New Jersey Office of the Attorney General

Division of Consumer Affairs
State Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors
124 Halsey Street, 3rd Floor, Newark, NJ 07102
www.njconsumeraffairs.gov



JOHN J. HOFFMAN
Acting Attorney General

ERIC T. KANEFSKY
Director

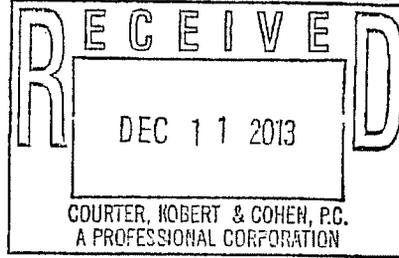
December 5, 2013

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 45015
Newark, NJ 07101
(973) 504-6460
(973) 273-8020 FAX

Certified and Regular Mail

70112970000313647663

Bruce A. Decker, P.L.S.
6 Arrowhead Trail
Lake Hopatcong, NJ 07849-1032



RE: I/M/O Bruce A. Decker, P.L.S.
Complaint No. 88575

Offer of Settlement In Lieu of Filing a Formal
Disciplinary Complaint

Dear Mr. Decker:

This letter is to advise you that the New Jersey State Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors (hereinafter the "Board") has had an opportunity to review information concerning your professional conduct in connection with your preparation of revised tax maps for the Township of Jefferson.

More specifically, evidence and testimony reveal that you have been employed by the Township of Jefferson as a professional land surveyor for approximately 14 years. In or about 2010 the County of Morris and Township of Jefferson entered into an agreement to have the County's GIS Department convert the Jefferson Township tax maps into a digital format. As part of that process, you revised the tax maps by reviewing all relevant documentation and making handwritten changes directly on the tax maps.

Thereafter, the marked-up copies of the tax maps were sent to the County's GIS Department to be put into a digital format. You testified that you had no involvement or contact with, and provided no guidance or input to, the County GIS Department staff during the integration of your handwritten changes into the digital tax maps, thus not rendering regular and effective supervision. However, although you did not review the digitized tax maps generated by the information you provided, you did review the print out of the final revised tax maps to ensure the incorporation of your handwritten changes.

Bruce Decker, PLS
page 2

Accordingly, upon review of all available information, the Board has preliminarily found that probable cause exists to support a finding that you are in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:8-28(g) and N.J.A.C. 13:40-9.1(a) in that you failed to render regular and effective supervision as indicated herein above.

As a result of the foregoing, the Board has preliminarily determined that the above violations are sufficient to warrant the initiation of formal proceedings against you. Notwithstanding that decision, the Board has determined that it will first offer you an opportunity to settle this matter in an attempt to avoid the initiation of more formal proceedings if you agree to a **formal reprimand** upon your signing of the acknowledgment at the bottom of this letter in connection with the above violations.

In making a determination, you should know that pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-25 any person who engages in conduct which is in violation of any provision of the statutes and regulations administered by the Board shall, in addition to any other sanctions provided by statute, be liable for a civil penalty of not more than \$10,000.00 for the first violation and not more than \$20,000.00 for the second and each subsequent violation. However, in an effort to resolve this matter amicably, the Board offers to settle on the terms stated above. If you are willing to resolve this matter on the offered settlement terms, you may do so by signing the acknowledgment at the bottom of this letter and returning it to the Board office within 15 days. In such event, this letter shall be a matter of public record.

In the event you are unwilling to settle this matter on the offered terms, it will be referred to the Attorney General's office for the initiation of formal proceedings. In such event, you will be afforded an opportunity to defend against the alleged violations. You are advised, however, that in the event formal charges are filed, you may be assessed civil penalties in an amount greater than that herein offered in settlement should any charges against you be sustained. Additionally, the Board may, if the facts herein or any additional facts are found to so warrant, enter an order requiring you to reimburse certain monies and/or requiring you to pay costs incurred by the Board. Should you have any questions concerning this letter or the settlement offer herein, I suggest that you contact Deputy Attorney General Michelle Albertson, who may be reached at (973) 648-7297.

Bruce Decker, PLS

If you elect to settle this matter, you should sign the acknowledgment at the bottom of this letter and return it to the Board within fifteen (15) days following your receipt of this letter. In the event that the Board receives no response from you within fifteen (15) days, the Board's settlement offer shall be considered withdrawn and the matter will be referred to the Attorney General's Office for the initiation of formal proceedings.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL
ENGINEERS AND LAND SURVEYORS

By: 

KARL W. REIDEL
Executive Director

cc: Lawrence P. Cohen, Esquire

cc: B. Michelle Albertson,
Deputy Attorney General

Bruce Decker, PLS

ACKNOWLEDGMENT: I, Bruce A. Decker, P.L.S., hereby acknowledge that I have read and reviewed the settlement proposal set forth in the above letter. I acknowledge the conduct which has been charged. I am aware that, by signing this acknowledgment, I am waiving any rights I may have to defend myself against any charges of wrongdoing at an administrative hearing. I am also aware that the action taken against me by the Board herein is a matter of public record and that this letter is a public document. I hereby agree to a formal reprimand for the violations set forth herein above.



BRUCE A. DECKER, P.L.S.

Dated: 12-12-13