MEMORANDUM

TO: Brent Hibbert, Assembly President Kenai Peninsula Borough Assembly Members

FROM: Melanie Aeschliman, Planning Director

- DATE: January 13, 2021
- RE: Vacate 30 foot wide Oliver Street right of way, including the associated utility easement, north of Half Moon Avenue as dedicated on Arrowhead Estates Phase 1 Plat KN 2000-7. The right-of-way being vacated is unconstructed and located within the NW1/4 NW1/4 of Section 19, Township 5 North, Range 9 West, Seward Meridian, Alaska, within the Kenai Peninsula Borough. KPB File 2020-147V.

In accordance with AS 29.40.140, no vacation of a Borough right-of-way and/or easement may be made without the consent of the Borough Assembly.

During their regularly scheduled meeting of January 11, 2021 the Kenai Peninsula Borough Planning Commission granted approval of the above proposed vacation by majority vote (6 Yes, 4 No) based on the means of evaluating public necessity established by KPB 20.70. This petition is being sent to you for your consideration and action.

A draft copy of the unapproved minutes of the pertinent portion of the meeting and other related materials are attached.

January 11, 2021 Planning Commission Draft Meeting Minutes January 11, 2021 Agenda Item E1 Meeting Packet Materials *6. Commissioner Excused Absences

a. Virginia Morgan, East Peninsula *Approved with adoption of consent agenda.

*7. Minutes

a. December 14, 2020 Planning Commission Meeting *Approved with adoption of consent agenda.

Chair Martin asked if anyone present want to speak or had concerns about any of the items on the consent agenda. Seeing and hearing no one, Chair Martin returned the discussion to the Commission.

MOTION: Commissioner Gillham moved, seconded by Commissioner Fikes to approve the consent agenda and the regular agenda.

Seeing and hearing no objection or discussion, the motion was carried by the following vote:

MOTION PASSED BY UNANIMOUS VOTE:

Yes	10 No 0 Absent 1
Yes	Bentz, Brantley, Carluccio, Chesser, Ecklund, Fikes, Gillham, Martin, Ruffner, Venuti
No	None
Absent	Morgan

AGENDA ITEM E. NEW BUSINESS

AGENDA ITEM E.

 Vacate 30 foot wide Oliver Street right of way, including the associated utility easement, north of Half Moon Avenue as dedicated on Arrowhead Estates Phase 1 Plat KN 2000-7. The right-of-way being vacated is unconstructed and located within the NW1/4 NW1/4 of Section 19, Township 5 North, Range 9 West, Seward Meridian, Alaska, within the Kenai Peninsula Borough. KPB File 2020-147V.

Staff report given by Scott Huff.

<u>Purpose as stated in petition</u>: The Oliver Street right of way has been previously cleared allowing access by other individuals. We would like to have this right of way abandoned as there is a history of unwanted traffic and others using it for undesirable purposes presenting a danger to our young children. The Borough owns 150 acres to the east of our property with multiple other access points off of Deville, Sterling Highway and Jim Dahler. This right of way does not have an outlet as our neighbor to the north does not have an Oliver Street right of way. This results in others littering, causing damage to vegetation and trees while turning around or getting stuck, and dumping of carcasses causing an increase in predator activity. We feel this short 630 foot section of right of way is unneeded and the abandonment would not adversely affect anyone in our area subdivisions or the borough. Thank you for your consideration.

Petitioners: Nathan D. and Julie A. Moore of Soldotna, AK.

<u>Notification</u>: Public notice appeared in the December 31, 2020 issue of the Peninsula Clarion as a separate ad. The public hearing notice was published in the January 7, 2021 issue of the Peninsula Clarion as part of the Commission's tentative agenda.

Four certified mailings were sent to owners of property within 300 feet of the proposed vacation. None of the receipts had been returned when the staff report was prepared.

Public hearing notices were sent by regular mail to two owners within 600 feet of the proposed vacation.

Seventeen public hearing notices were emailed to agencies and interested parties as shown below; State of Alaska Dept. of Fish and Game State of Alaska DNR State of Alaska DOT State of Alaska DNR Forestry Emergency Services of CES Kenai Peninsula Borough Land Management Alaska Communication Systems (ACS) ENSTAR Natural Gas General Communications Inc., (GCI) Homer Electric Association (HEA)

Public hearing notices were made available to five KPB staff/Departments (Addressing, Code Compliance, Planner, Roads Dept., River Center) via a shared database.

Notices were mailed to the Sterling Post Office and Soldotna Community Library with a request to be posted in public locations.

The notice and maps were posted on the Borough bulletin board and Planning Department public hearing notice web site.

Comments Received:

ACS: Not available at the time the staff report was prepared.

ENSTAR: No comments, recommendations, or objections.

Homer Electric Association: Not available at the time the staff report was prepared.

KPB Addressing: Not available at the time the staff report was prepared.

KPB Planning: There are no material site or local option zone issues that affect this right of way vacation.

KPB River Center: Not within a flood hazard area.

KPB Roads Department: Within KPB jurisdiction. <u>RSA objects to the ROW vacation</u>. Removing this ROW could present a problem with future development of the surrounding lots that have not been subdivided.

State Parks: No comments.

<u>Staff Discussion</u>: Arrowhead Estates Phase 1, Plat KN 2000-7, dedicated a 30 foot wide right of way, named Ridge Street that was approximately 630 feet long. This dedication extends north from the Half Moon Avenue dedication. At that time the property to the north and east were unsubdivided. Resolution SN 2006-12 changed Ridge Street to Oliver Street. Oliver Street was depicted on plat KN 2010-47. The purpose of that plat was to combine two lots into one.

Oliver Street is an approximate 3,680 foot long right of way that is near milepost 89.5 of the Sterling Highway. The only portion of Oliver Street that appears to be constructed is directly off the Sterling Highway and is used as a driveway to a lot owned by the Kenai Peninsula Borough with an accessory building on the premises. The remaining length of the right of way appears to be partially cleared and not improved as a vehicular roadway. It appears that a trail may exist within Oliver Street.

The area proposed to be vacated is the northern 630 feet of the Oliver Street right of way. This area is located at the end of Half Moon Avenue. Half Moon Avenue is a 60 foot right of way located off of Jim Dahler Road. Half Moon Avenue is approximately 1,270 feet long. It is constructed and maintained by the Kenai Peninsula Borough. The maintenance of Half Moon Avenue ends shortly after the driveway to Lot 11A of Arrowhead Estates Moore Replat, which the proposed vacation abuts. It appears that the remainder of the right of way is cleared but is not constructed to borough standards.

To the north of the vacation, Barkman Subdivision 2014 Addition, Plat KN 2014-63, was finalized without extending the dedication of Oliver Street. The parent plat to Barkman Sub 2014 received an exception for extending Oliver Street which was carried over. Reasons given were that due to low wet areas and slopes

greater than 20 percent extending Oliver Street was impractical. There is a drainage way north of the proposed vacation as well as dedications for Arrowhead Avenue and Appaloosal Lane that may need to be extended in the future from the 15 acre parcel.

To the east is a 154 acre parcel owned by the Kenai Peninsula Borough. That parcel currently has access from Appaloosa Lane, Deville Rd, Half Moon Avenue, the southern portion of Oliver Street as well as 50 foot section line easements that run east-west north of the proposed vacation.

A 100 foot wide section line easement is located at the northerly end of Oliver Street. The section line easement extends in an east-west direction.

If approved, a plat will finalize the proposed right of way vacations. At this time a plat has not been submitted. Once a complete application is submitted it will be scheduled to be reviewed by the Plat Committee. Staff would like to note that an exception to KPB 20.30.170, block length requirements, will be required.

KPB 20.70 – Vacation Requirements.

<u>Platting staff comments</u>: Staff reviewed the vacation and all the items required by 20.70 were met, unless otherwise noted below:

20.70.040. Application—Petition required.

C. In areas where right-of-way is being vacated due to excessive topographic features, a contour map or centerline profile and/or right-of-way cross sectional view may be required by the commission to substantiate the unusable right-of-way and show alternate and dedicated routes to insure ingress and egress to adjacent lands.

Platting Staff Comments: Staff prepared a contour map that can be found in the packet.

20.70.130. Vacation plat—Preparation, approval and recording. Upon approval of the vacation request by the planning commission and no veto by the city council or assembly, the applicant shall have a surveyor prepare and submit a plat including the entire area approved for vacation in conformance with KPB 20.10.080. Only the area approved for vacation by the assembly or council may be included on the plat. The final plat must be recorded within one year of the vacation consent in KPB 20.70.110.

Platting Staff Comments: If the vacation is approved a preliminary plat submittal is required. An exception will be required and cannot be finalized by a right of way vacation plat.

Staff recommendation: Comply with 20.70.130.

20.70.150. Title to vacated area.

A. The title to the street or other public area vacated on a plat attaches to the lot or lands bordering on the area in equal proportions, except that if the area was originally dedicated by different persons, original boundary lines shall be adhered to so that the street area which lies on one side of the boundary line shall attach to the abutting property on that side, and the street area which lies on the other side of the boundary line shall attach to the property on that side. The portion of a vacated street which lies within the limits of a platted addition attaches to the lots of the platted addition bordering on the area. If a public square is vacated, the title to it vests in the city if it lies within the city and to the borough if it lies within the borough outside a city. If the property vacated is a lot or tract, title vests in the rightful owner.

Platting Staff Comments: A plat has not yet been submitted but the vacated right of way will attach to parcel that the dedication came from, Lot 11A of Arrowhead Estates Moore Replat, KN 2010-47.

20.70.160. Partial vacation allowed. Where the planning commission finds that a right-of-way must be preserved, but determines there is excessive width for all intended uses within the right-of-way, the commission may approve a partial vacation of a right-of-way such that the width is reduced to the maximum necessary for the intended use. Such vacation shall conform to this title for the class of right-of-way involved except where the right-of-way is not intended to be used for vehicular purposes.

Platting Staff Comments: This is currently a half width dedication of 30 feet. If approved the entire 30 foot width will be vacated.

20.70.170. Vehicular Access. The planning commission shall not approve the vacation of a right-of-way unless an equal or superior right-of-way for vehicular access exists or will be provided in exchange. Where

two or more access points are necessary for large vacant or semi-vacant areas of land, the commission shall consider density, use, projected development, and maintain sufficient rights-of-way to serve potential use.

Platting Staff Comments: Additional right of way is not proposed. The right of way is unconstructed and ends in an area of steep terrain. The undeveloped 50 foot section line easement provides similar access as this right of way. All lots in the area have access and some have multiple access points. Large acreage tracts surround the proposed vacation. When the large acreage tracts are further subdivided right of way dedications will be required to provide continuous access between Halfmoon Avenue, Oliver Street, Deville Road and Appaloosa Lane. Future right of way dedications will be based on lot configuration and topographic features. Those dedications can take into account the terrain and layout the right of ways in a way that allows for vehicular access.

20.70.180. Other access. Other lawful uses that exist or are feasible for the right-of-way shall be considered when evaluating a vacation request. When such uses exist or could exist within rights-of-way which are not suited for general road use, the commission shall not approve the vacation request, unless it can be demonstrated that equal or superior access is or will be available. The planning commission shall consider whether alternate uses present public safety issues which support approval of the vacation.

Platting Staff Comments: Oliver Street provides legal access for pedestrian use. The large tract to the east is borough property and open to the public for recreational use. The dedicated right of way does provide access to the KPB parcel to the east. There are multiple access points to the borough lands.

20.70.190. Utility provisions. All existing and future utility requirements shall be considered when evaluating a vacation request. Rights-of-way which are utilized by a public utility or which logically would be required by a public utility shall not be vacated, unless it can be demonstrated that equal or superior access is or will be available. Where an easement would satisfactorily serve the utility interests, and no other public need for the right-of-way exists, the commission may approve the vacation and require that a public utility easement be granted in place of the right-of-way.

Platting Staff Comments: The petition included associated utility easements. The vacation has been sent to the utility providers for comment. Not all comments were not received when the staff report was prepared. The right of way and the associated utility easement could be used for the placement of utility lines. Electric lines are already in place to service the existing parcels.

Staff recommendation: Preserve existing utility easements or grant requested easements as requested by the utility providers.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Based on the above means of evaluating public necessity established by KPB 20.70, the merits of the proposed vacations, and the KPB Roads Department review, staff recommends denial.

If the Planning Commission recommends approval of the vacation, it will be subject to:

- 1. Consent by KPB Assembly.
- 2. Compliance with the requirements for preliminary plats per Chapter 20 of the KPB Code.
- 3. Grant utility easements requested by the utility providers.
- Submittal of a final plat within a timeframe such that the plat can be recorded within one year of vacation consent (KPB 20.70.130).

KPB 20.70.110:

A vacation of a street right-of-way, public area, or public easement within the borough outside of the limits of cities may not be made without the consent of the borough assembly.

The assembly shall have 30 calendar days from the date of approval in which to veto the planning commission decision. If no veto is received by the planning director within the specified period, the borough shall be considered to have given consent to the vacation.

KPB 20.70.120:

- A. Denial of a vacation petition is a final act for which no further consideration shall be given by the Kenai Peninsula Borough.
- B. Upon denial by the planning commission, no reapplication or petition concerning the same

vacation may be filed within one calendar year of the date of the final denial action except in the case where new evidence or circumstances exist that were not available or present when the original petition was filed.

KPB 20.70.130: THE FINAL PLAT MUST BE RECORDED WITHIN ONE YEAR OF THE VACATION CONSENT IN KPB 20.70.110.

END OF STAFF REPORT

Chair Martin open the item for public comment

Nathan Moore, Petitioner; 39750 Half Moon Ave., Soldotna, AK 99669: Mr. Moore is the petitioner and would ask that the commission grant his request. The reason they would like this easement to be abandoned is they get a lot of unwanted traffic down the easement. In the past, he has confronted young people back in the area partying and doing drugs. He had to chase them out and clean up the trash and drug paraphernalia. He does not want drug paraphernalia left around for his kids and pets. This area has also become a dumping zone for folks; they have found dead dogs, cats, beer cans and other types of trash. The trail that has been created on the easement has deep ruts and is getting worse with continued use. He does not see where it would be detrimental to the borough or the public to abandon this easement. He know the borough owns a 150-acre lot back there but there are already other ways to access this property. He would not consider Half Moon Ave, which is a borough maintained road, a good thoroughfare for traffic, as it is very steep. He has no plans for the area other than to put up "private property," signs to keep the riff-raff out. The borough has put up "dead end" signs on Half Moon and it still does not keep people out.

Commissioner Brantley asked Mr. Moore how is the public getting back to this area – are they using Half Moon Ave.? Also what kind of vehicles are they using? Mr. Moore responded that when they built Half Moon Ave. they built a cul-de-sac at the end of road that connects to his driveway. Half Moon also connects with Oliver St. Folks on ATVs, snow machines, horses and other types of vehicles, use it. The public uses Half Moon Ave. to access the borough property.

Seeing and hearing no one else from the public wishing to comment, Chair Martin closed public comment and opened discussion among the Commission.

MOTION: Commissioner Brantley moved, seconded by Commissioner Fikes to approve the vacation as petitioned based on the means of evaluating public necessity established by KPB 20.70, subject to staff recommendations and compliance with borough code.

Commissioner Ecklund noted the staff report referred to a contour map but she did not see one. The applicant mentions that there are steep hills on Half Moon Ave. and she wondered if the right-of-way being petitioned to vacate has steep grades as well. Mr. Huff replied the missing map was an oversight and apologized. He did not believe the section of Oliver St. being requested to vacate was steep. To the north where the Barkman property was granted an exception, it does have a steep drop off. He referred the commission to the map found on page 22 of the meeting packet where it shows a depression just off to the left at the end of Oliver St. as well as a depression, with what appears to be standing water, west of the section of Oliver St. being requested to vacate. Mr. Huff then stated that Mr. Moore might be able to address the grade of Oliver St. more accurately. Mr. Moore replied that the portion of Oliver St. he would like abandoned does not have steep grades.

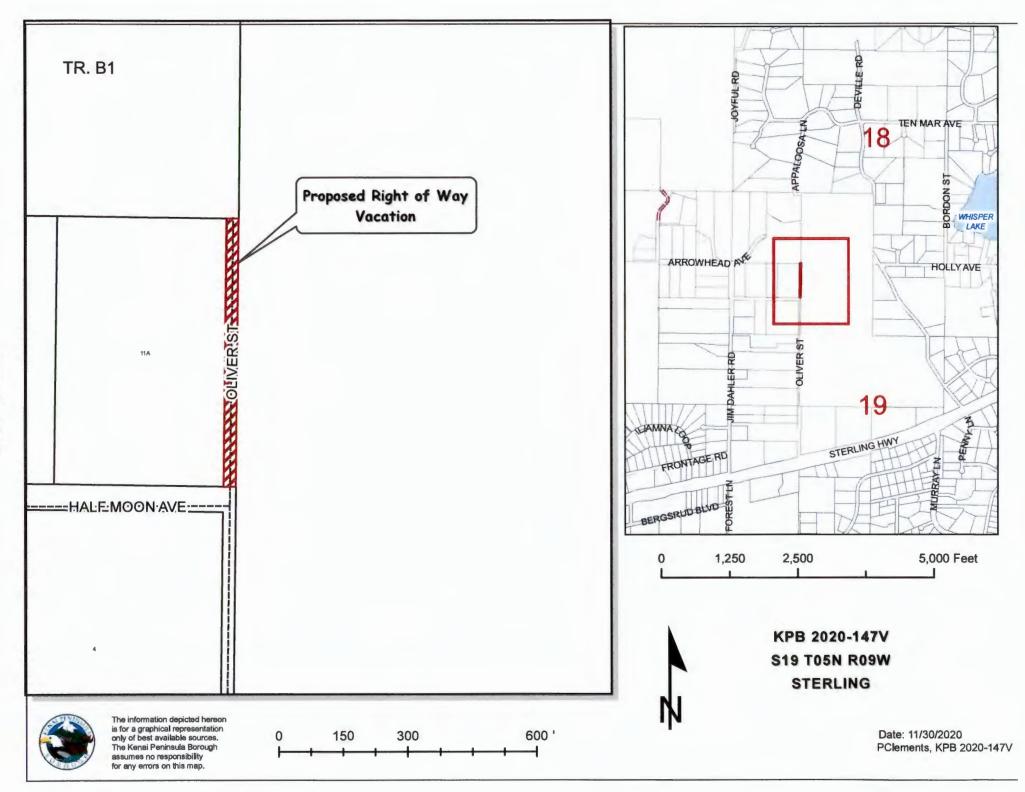
Seeing and hearing no objection or further discussion, the motion was carried by the following vote:

MOTION PASSED BY MAJORITY VOTE:

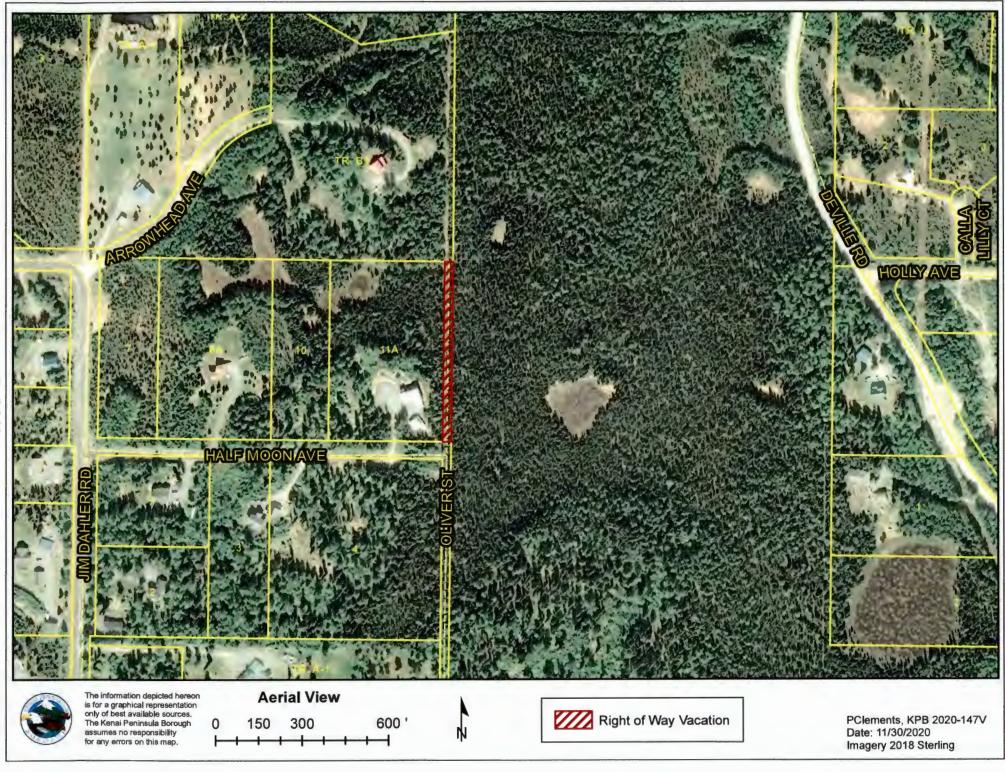
Yes	6	No	4	Absent	1				
Yes	Brantley, Carluccio, Chesser, Ecklund, Fikes, Gillham								
No	Bentz, Martin, Ruffner, Venuti								
Absent	Morg	jan							

E. NEW BUSINESS

1. Right-of-Way Vacation Arrowhead Estates Moore Replat Oliver Street Vacation KPB File 2020-147V Petitioners: Nathan D. & Julie A. Moore



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AGENDA ITEM E. PUBLIC HEARINGS

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STAFF REPORT

PC Meeting: January 11, 2021

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KPB 20.70 – Vacation Requirements.

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Staff recommendation: Comply with 20.70.130.

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Platting Staff Comments: The petition included associated utility easements. The vacation has been sent to the utility providers for comment. Not all comments were not received when the staff report was prepared. The right of way and the associated utility easement could be used for the placement of utility lines. Electric lines are already in place to service the existing parcels.

Staff recommendation: Preserve existing utility easements or grant requested easements as requested by the utility providers.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Based on the above means of evaluating public necessity established by KPB 20.70, the merits of the proposed vacations, and the KPB Roads Department review, **staff recommends denial.**

If the Planning Commission recommends approval of the vacation, it will be subject to:

- 1. Consent by KPB Assembly.
- 2. Compliance with the requirements for preliminary plats per Chapter 20 of the KPB Code.
- 3. Grant utility easements requested by the utility providers.
- 4. Submittal of a final plat within a timeframe such that the plat can be recorded within one year of vacation consent (KPB 20.70.130).

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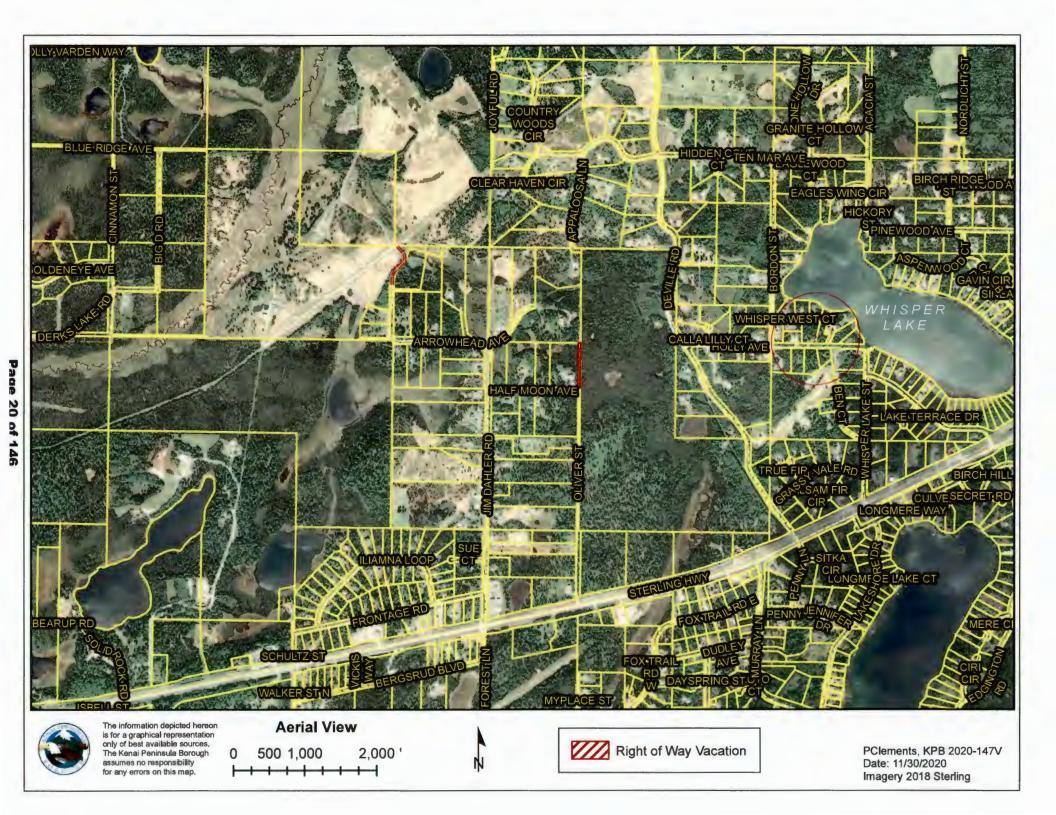
KPB 20.70.120:

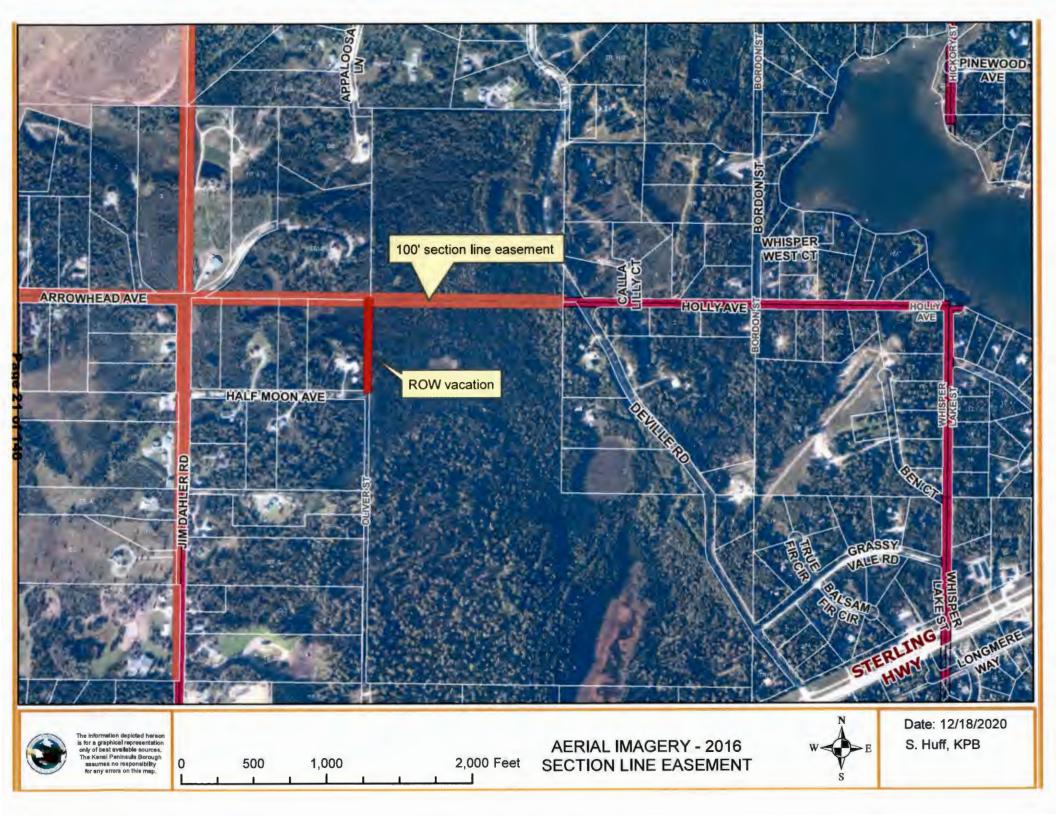
- A. Denial of a vacation petition is a final act for which no further consideration shall be given by the Kenai Peninsula Borough.
- B. Upon denial by the planning commission, no reapplication or petition concerning the same vacation may be filed within one calendar year of the date of the final denial action except in the case where new evidence or circumstances exist that were not available or present when the original petition was filed.

KPB 20.70.130:

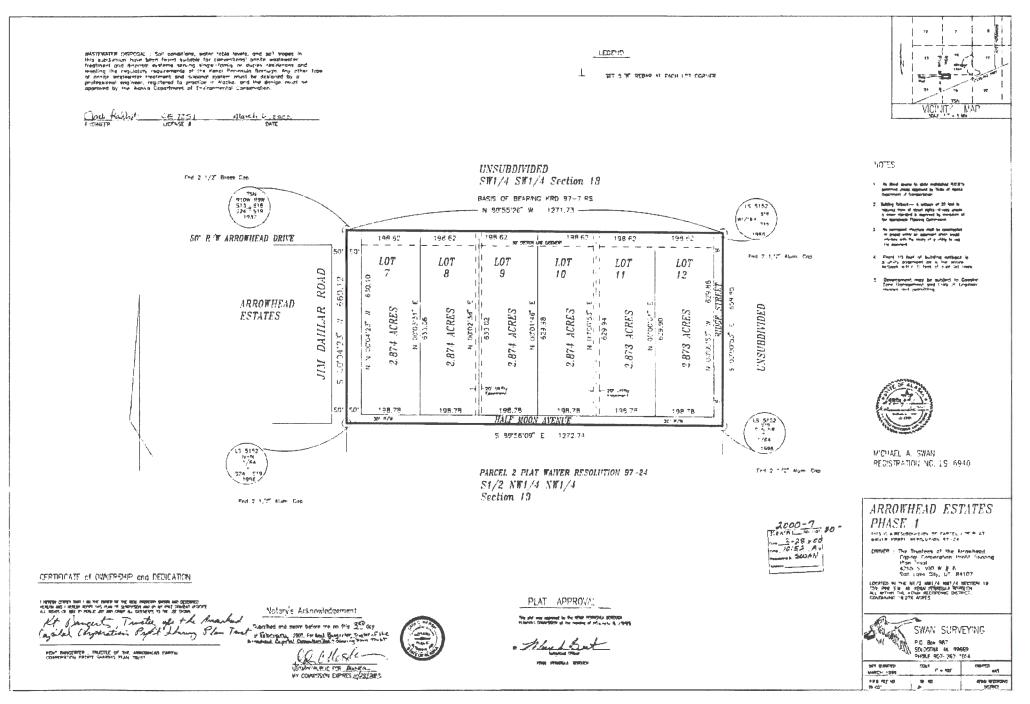
THE FINAL PLAT MUST BE RECORDED WITHIN ONE YEAR OF THE VACATION CONSENT IN KPB 20.70.110.

END OF STAFF REPORT









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