



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR

Anchorage Region  
P. O. Box 166  
Anchorage, Alaska

*M*  
Townsite trustee to issue deeds for streets, alleys or parks which have been dedicated to the public within the boundaries of a patented townsite.

Memorandum

To: Area Administrator, Area 4

From: Regional Solicitor, Anchorage

Subject: Conveyance of Dedicated Areas within Townsites

Your memorandum of February 3 requests our views as to whether it is necessary or appropriate for the townsite trustee to issue deeds for streets, alleys or parks which have been dedicated to the public within the boundaries of a patented townsite.

Previous consideration has been given to your question in the following:

Memorandum dated March 16, 1953 from the Chief Counsel to the Regional Administrator, Region VII.

Memorandum dated May 9, 1955 from the Acting Assistant Solicitor, Branch of Land Management, to the Director, Bureau of Land Management.

Memorandum dated August 5, 1957 from the Associate Solicitor, Division of Public Lands to the Director, Bureau of Land Management.

- Gamble v. Sault Ste. Marie, 10 L.D. 375
- O. P. Perman, 52 L.D. 558.

*Land Decision*  
*Interior Dept. Decision 90 B.O.L.*

In these memoranda and decisions it has uniformly been held that when land in a townsite has been dedicated for public use jurisdiction over such land as well as the title and right to possession and control thereof passes from the United States (and the trustee) and that the right and title to such land is subject to disposition in the courts in accordance with applicable local law. Accordingly, you are advised that it is not necessary and would not be appropriate for the

APPENDIX 15

\*\* townsite trustee to issue deeds to dedicated areas because after dedication he no longer has title or jurisdiction over them. Copies of the memoranda referred to above are ordered.

If we can be of further assistance in this matter do not hesitate to call upon us.

William W. Redwood  
Regional Solicitor

Attachment

\*\* re-typed so filmable and readable

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