



Pinellas County

315 Court Street, 5th Floor
Assembly Room
Clearwater, Florida 33756

Staff Report

File #: 23-0375A

Agenda Date: 3/28/2023

Subject:

Proposed settlement authority in the case of Signe Schmit v. Pinellas County; Circuit Civil Case No. 20-003166-CI – allegations of negligence resulting in personal injuries.

Recommended Action:

Consideration of the proposed settlement authority in the case of Signe Schmit v. Pinellas County authorizing the County Attorney to engage in settlement negotiations up to \$120,000.00.

Strategic Plan:

N/A

Summary:

This is a civil action in which Plaintiff alleges negligence against the County and seeks monetary damages for personal injuries allegedly arising out of a trip and fall on a valve cover in a sidewalk on April 7, 2019, at or near 2100 Gulf Boulevard in Belleair Beach.

Plaintiff's medical bills exceed \$95,000.00 and given the potential liability exposure, it is recommended that the County attempt to settle this matter up to \$120,000.00, inclusive of all costs and claims for attorney's fees. Risk Management and County Administration concur with this recommendation.

Background Information:

This matter was previously brought before the board on August 11, 2020, under Legistar item no. 20-1369A.

Fiscal Impact:

Unknown.

Staff Member Responsible:

Jewel White, County Attorney
Christy Donovan Pemberton, Managing Assistant County Attorney
Jared D. Kahn, Assistant County Attorney
Merry Celeste, Division Director, Purchasing and Risk Management, Administrative Services

Partners:

N/A

Attachments:

N/A



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Recommended Action:

Consideration of the proposed settlement authority in the case of Signe Schmit v. Pinellas County.

Strategic Plan:

N/A

Summary:

The above-referenced case is being brought to the Board of County Commissioners for consideration in accordance with the confidential memorandum of March 28, 2023.

Background Information:

This matter was previously brought before the Board on August 11, 2020, under Legistar item no. 20-1369A.

Fiscal Impact:

Unknown.

Staff Member Responsible:

Jewel White, County Attorney

Christy Donovan Pemberton, Managing Assistant County Attorney

Jared D. Kahn, Assistant County Attorney

Merry Celeste, Division Director, Purchasing and Risk Management, Administrative Services

Partners:

N/A

Attachments:

N/A