



OFFICE OF THE CLERK
WISCONSIN COURT OF APPEALS

110 EAST MAIN STREET, SUITE 215
P.O. BOX 1688
MADISON, WISCONSIN 53701-1688

Telephone (608) 266-1880
TTY: (800) 947-3529
Facsimile (608) 267-0640
Web Site: www.wicourts.gov

DISTRICT III

February 28, 2017

To:

Hon. Edward F. Vlack III
Circuit Court Judge
St. Croix County Courthouse
1101 Carmichael Road
Hudson, WI 54016

Kristi Severson
Clerk of Circuit Court
St. Croix County Courthouse
1101 Carmichael Road
Hudson, WI 54016

William G. Thiel
Weld Riley, S.C.
P.O. Box 1030
Eau Claire, WI 54702-1030

Warren Slocum
2220 122nd Street
New Richmond, WI 54017

You are hereby notified that the Court has entered the following opinion and order:

2016AP41

Warren Slocum v. Star Prairie Township, Board, and Board of
Review (L. C. No. 2014CV238)

Before Stark, P.J., Hruz and Seidl, JJ.

Warren Slocum, pro se, continues his tax assessment saga. Based upon our review of the briefs and record, we conclude at conference that this case is appropriate for summary disposition. *See* WIS. STAT. RULE 809.21 (2015-16).¹ We previously admonished Slocum that further frivolous filings or rules violations may result in sanctions, including dismissal of the appeal, summary reversal, striking of a paper, imposition of a penalty or costs, or other actions as this court deems appropriate. Slocum's continued egregious abuse of process compels dismissal of the present appeal. *See* WIS. STAT. RULE 809.83(2). We also bar Slocum from future

¹ All references to the Wisconsin Statutes are to the 2015-16 version unless otherwise noted.

Wisconsin Court of Appeals filings unless and until all sanctions imposed against Slocum by the Court of Appeals awarding costs, fees and reasonable attorney fees have been paid in full.

On March 8, 2016, we affirmed the circuit court’s dismissal of Slocum’s action regarding his 2013 property tax assessments. *See Slocum v. Star Prairie Township*, No. 2015AP1287, unpublished slip op. (Mar. 8, 2016). Slocum commenced that lawsuit on May 6, 2014, and Slocum’s entire complaint was as follows:

This is an objection to 2013 property tax assessments which have resulted in payment of excessive taxes.

An s. 74.35 claim has been denied by the town board.

The relief sought by this action is a refund of the excessive tax payments of \$1400.

Id., slip op., ¶2.

In case No. 2015AP1287, the circuit court had concluded Slocum improperly named the Board of Review as a defendant and failed to state a claim upon which relief may be granted as to the remaining defendants. The court also found Slocum had engaged in “a pattern of endless litigation and an abuse of process” that warranted sanctions for frivolous filings under WIS. STAT. § 802.05. *Id.*, slip op., ¶3. In doing so, the court emphasized the number of lawsuits Slocum filed over the years and the fact that he is not “an unlearned and unlettered pro se litigant.” *Id.* A subsequent motion for reconsideration was denied. Slocum appealed, followed by an “additional appeal” and a “second appeal.” In our decision affirming the finding of frivolousness, we noted that in “another case decided this date involving his 2012 tax assessment, Slocum filed an appeal and two ‘additional appeals.’” *Id.*, slip op., ¶11. We noted this latter case also resulted in a finding of frivolousness. We iterated fifteen prior St. Croix

County lawsuits Slocum filed since 2007, invariably naming Star Prairie Township and its Board of Review as defendants, and all centering around his property taxes. *Id.*, slip op., ¶10.

We advised Slocum that, despite our leniency in the face of his abuse of the judicial system, we would not allow his endless filings to continue. We admonished Slocum that a court facing a litigant who brings frivolous filings has the authority to limit that litigant's access to the court. *Id.*, slip op., ¶14. We also specifically admonished Slocum that further frivolous filings or rules violations could result in sanctions.

Slocum commenced the present lawsuit also on May 6, 2014, and the complaint is identical to that filed in case No. 2015AP1287. Less than six weeks following our decision admonishing Slocum in case No. 2015AP1287, Slocum filed his principal appellate brief in this case, completely ignoring our order, forwarding for our review the same claims we had just rejected, and re-arguing the same issues. Once again, Slocum's briefs fail to conform to the rules of appellate practice and he engages in a frivolous filing. Slocum's briefs on appeal also contain unwarranted ad hominem attacks on the circuit court that are not only disrespectful but contemptuous, lacking any connection to reason or legitimate facts of record. On the whole, Slocum's repeated egregious conduct and bad faith warrant dismissal of the present appeal pursuant to WIS. STAT. RULE 809.83(2).

We conclude further sanctions are also warranted, as repeated cautions and admonitions have proven ineffective to end Slocum's vexatious and abusive conduct. *See Minniecheske v. Griesbach*, 161 Wis. 2d 743, 748, 468 N.W.2d 760 (Ct. App. 1991). Accordingly, the clerk of this court is instructed to return unfiled any document Slocum submits relating to any matter arising from, relating to, or involving Star Prairie Township's property tax assessments of

Slocum's real property, until such time as Slocum provides the clerk of this court proof that all sanctions issued by this court against Slocum awarding costs, fees, and reasonable attorney fees have been paid in full.² Costs in the present case are awarded on appeal to Respondents.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that the appeal is summarily dismissed. WIS. STAT. RULE 809.83(2).

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the clerk of this court shall return unfiled any document Slocum submits relating to any matter arising from, relating to, or involving Star Prairie Township's property tax assessments of Slocum's real property, until such time as Slocum provides the clerk of this court with proof that all sanctions issued by this court against Slocum awarding costs, fees and reasonable attorney fees have been paid in full.

Diane M. Fremgen
Clerk of Court of Appeals

² In recognition that a filing restriction must be narrowly tailored to the type of abuse, Slocum is not barred from filing documents in this court responding to any action commenced by Star Prairie Township, or any criminal proceeding commenced against him, or seeking habeas corpus relief for himself, or challenging incarceration, or petitioning the Wisconsin Supreme Court for review of this opinion.