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How you can help in the fight for fair property assessment

letters to the editor

I was delighted to see Maryanne Ingemanson’s open letter to Washoe County Manager, Katy Singlaub, in last Sunday’s Bonanza. Ms. Ingemanson’s words characterize the entire property tax assessment fiasco that we in Incline Village/Crystal Bay have been subjected to over the past 5 years — “errors,” “omissions,” “misstatements,” “inaccuracies,” “misleading,” “false impression,” “the truth is otherwise.” This totally inaccurate and deceptive response from a county official to a citizen of our community simply needs to be called out for what it is — wrong.

Of course the words “illegal” and “unconstitutional” which the State Supreme Court deemed the methods used to assess us are even more damning. Yet, the high and mighty in the tax bureaucracy, including Washoe County administration, continue to avoid the real gut issue — that we are treated differently than other parts of the county and from similar properties in other counties. The State Board of “Equalization” is a misnomer. They have no clue what the word “equalization” means, or if they do, have no intention of enforcing it. Their decisions have been 100 percent against us and 100 percent in the face of the Supreme Court decision. How arrogant!

The county holds the position that only 17 properties were affected by the Supreme Court decision. That the other 9000+ properties were assessed using the same illegal and unconstitutional methods doesn’t matter to them at all. They use our tax dollars for their legal beagles to appeal to sympathetic agencies within the system or the courts

to try to thwart our efforts for justice and drain our resources. That isn’t going to happen.

Our resolve is only strengthened. Everyone just got their annual gift — the postcard showing the outrageous assessed value increases for our property. If that didn’t get your attention, take another look. The State Legislature can eliminate the 3 percent tax cap that we actually pay with the stroke of the pen. If that were to happen, then (par don the pun), “Katy, bar the door.” Your property tax increase will be astronomical and the “For Sale” signs will be unprecedented. Ms. Singlaub occasionally writes self-serving columns trumpeting what the county does for us with all their good deeds and services. Baloney! Anything we get is but a fraction of what they take from us illegally and unconstitutionally.

We need to band together (again) and take three very definitive actions. First, show up at the Jan. 7 hearing as this is the important next step. Second, make all of your property tax payments under protest. And, finally, send in your Petition for Review of Assessed Valuation. Failure to do the latter two actions could preclude you from the remedies we are seeking as the county will claim you “sat on your hands” and use their administrative rules to eliminate you from consideration. What a great system!

Information on the three actions described above can be found on the Web site www.nevadapropertytaxrevolt.org. Please encourage your friends and neighbors to be involved and proactive as it’s in all of our best interests.

Chuck Otto
Incline Village

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