

## **Tax Issues At Incline Village Bring Angry Responses**

### **Washoe County Officials Still Not In Compliance, They Say**

The group known as the Village League Tax Revolt Committee is continuing to fight Washoe County Assessor Josh Wilson, Treasurer Bill Berrum, and District Attorney Richard Gammick. "We filed a contempt of court action against Josh Wilson and a writ of prohibition against the state board of equalization," Maryanne Ingemanson, president of the organization said.

Following large increases in property taxes, and changes in the way the taxes were calculated, the Committee was formed to fight the county. District Court Judge William Maddox ruled in favor of the taxpayers, and his ruling was upheld by the Nevada Supreme Court.

Ingemanson does not mince her words about the situation and in a recent newsletter distributed to Committee members and property owners at the Lake Tahoe community, she lets it all go. "When this problem was first brought to their attention four and a half years ago," she wrote, "a correction and a settlement of overpaid taxes would have cost the county (Washoe) \$55,000. Now, the refunds that are due, by the order of the court, total 9,000 of the IV/CB (Incline Village / Crystal Bay) property owners are in the millions of dollars. Does this sound to you as if good business practices are being followed?"

Josh Wilson inherited the problem when he was elected County Assessor in November to replace Bob McGowan retiring from the office due to term limits. McGowan had used what the court determined were illegal means to tax residents of the high-end community along the eastern shores of Lake Tahoe. Ingemanson believes the problem is a concerted effort by the county to gouge as much tax money as possible from residents in the area. "The officials of Washoe County are thumbing their collective noses at the State of Nevada, the law, the courts, and the rights of the property owners."

A hearing before the combined Boards of the Nevada Tax Commission and the State Board of Equalization is taking place as we go to press. Ingemanson says the Village Board and their attorneys will be at the hearing. If, as many believe the court decisions affect virtually the entire Washoe County, property tax refunds could total hundreds of millions of dollars and have long-term effects on county budgets, the county schools system, purchases, and upgrades for years.

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