

Tax revolt group takes on McGowan

Andrew Pridgen
Bonanza News Editor,
apridgen@tahoebonanza.com
April 12, 2006

Incline Village residents, at odds in recent years with Washoe County Assessor Robert McGowan over property tax assessments, argued their case for having him removed from office.

Residents of the Lake Tahoe community accuse McGowan of malfeasance over how his office has factored in views of the lake when setting property taxes.

During a hearing Monday before Washoe District Judge Jerry Polaha, residents argued McGowan's office failed to follow land-appraisal rules that took effect in 2004 regarding how views of Lake Tahoe should be evaluated.

McGowan countered that his staff has followed the new rules while awaiting clarification from the Nevada State Tax Commission on the view rating system.

Last year, 1,200 residents appealed their new tax notices to the county board of equalization, and the board set aside the assessor's 8 percent increase on land values based on views.

But McGowan's office appealed to the state equalization board, which overturned the county panel and reinstated the higher levy.

The dispute is now in district court.

###