



www.TahoeBonanza.com, January 5, 2007, front page

The \$80,000 question is in the answer

Washoe County come up with preliminary formula, amount to pay back tax revoltors

Andrew Pridgen

Bonanza News Editor,
apridgen@tahoebonanza.com
January 5, 2007

Washoe County attorneys this week pored over the decision coming down from the state supreme court in favor of Incline's tax revoltors. The question as to how much would be refunded to the 17 property owners named in the June hearing, now has a preliminary answer.

County finance director John Sherman estimates the initial refunds would total \$80,000, including interest.

What may be of more value to the residents of Incline and the rest of the county may be the penciled-in percentage that each government entity would contribute. It is:

- State of Nevada: 5.2 percent
- Washoe County: 42 percent
- Washoe County School District: 34.6 percent
- IVGID: 2.3 percent
- NLTFPD: 15.9 percent

County officials were unable to comment on whether this formula would be applied to all property tax owners, should a wholesale rollback occur.

The \$80,000 figure breaks down to a \$4,700 refund on average, county officials said.

"We'll have to have the attorneys look at the number," said League to Save Incline Assets president Maryanne Ingemanson. "We have no control over how they used the over-paid taxes.

"I haven't seen any of this yet, I doubt they'll send me a Fed-Ex delivery. I'm delighted they're moving forward and making positive effort to solve this situation."

This first round of refunds would be the result of the district court decision by William Maddox (upheld by the supreme court) that the 17 property owners named in the suit were not assessed properly.

The rebates resulting will be the difference between taxes paid by those individuals on the 2003-'04 property values minus the taxes paid on their 2002-'03 values.

"We had a big meeting yesterday with the assessors office, treasurers office and the district attorney, figuring out how to implement the ruling," said Washoe County spokeswoman Kathy Carter. "It's very complex, we're still working on a timeline (for when the refund will occur)."

Tax revoltors meanwhile said they're meeting "around the clock" with attorneys to implement wholesale reparation.

"Friday is another big hurdle," said tax revolter Ingemanson in reference to the group's efforts to void the most recent 15 percent land value assessment hike. "The way they got to it was using the same old methods that were proven illegal in court. The assessor's office hasn't changed a thing."

The county will release next week a Q&A document about the supreme court decision and next steps for residents to mull.