

Finally the big one

editorial

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Thursday's Nevada Supreme Court decision is the big one — it's the one big decision that Maryanne Ingemanson and the Village League to Save Incline Assets have talked about for six years, the big one that should shed some light at the end of a very convoluted tunnel.

And while that tunnel still very well could be six more years from reaching a bright fruition, for the first time since this whole thing began, there's some much-deserved solace settling into this community.

That big breeze of wind you just saw gushing by? That's a huge sigh of relief from Ingemanson, the other Village League members and other dedicated residents who have followed the tax revolt from the beginning.

But this does not — and should not — stop with those select few people.

Thursday's ruling from the Supreme Court is the first major decision in the six-year revolt that affects the entire community.

Sure past Supreme Court decisions have come down — most notably the one in late July (the "Barta decision") that refunded 38 parcel holders' taxes back to the 2002-2003 assessed values — but that only dealt with 38 people.

Thursday's decision affects some 9,000 parcel holders in Incline Village and Crystal Bay. That's everybody in this community, folks.

What could it mean? It could mean that Washoe County will be responsible for dividing as much as \$12 million among the 9,000 local parcel holders, rolling back their assessed property values from 2006-2007 to the 2002-2003 taxation values.

A few dominoes have to fall before that becomes a reality, as the case still needs to be heard before the State Board of Equalization, and while the board's vote should be obvious, it never can be taken for granted.

Furthermore, if the state board does rule that the county shall roll back those values, the county still holds the option of appealing that decision.

So Thursday's decision by no means indicates 9,000 people will receive a refund soon — but it does mean that this whole community is on board, and for such a strong decision to come down from the State Supreme Court should only mean good things for the other cases out there that affect this whole community, not just a group of petitioners.

After the Barta decision, the Bonanza wrote an editorial and asked this question, in reference to a large number of cases still pending regarding this issue: "How many individual opinions will it take to rectify this obvious problem?"

Well Thursday's opinion should be the first step.

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