

**KITTITAS COUNTY  
BOARD OF EQUALIZATION**

411 N Ruby St, Ste 2, Ellensburg, WA 98926  
(509) 962-7506

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**ORDER OF THE KITTITAS COUNTY BOARD OF EQUALIZATION**

Property Owner(s): Gary & Kelli Lackey  
Mailing Address: 101 Morning Star Ln  
Cle Elum, WA 98922  
Tax Parcel No(s): 950175  
Assessment Year: 2023 (Taxes Payable in 2024)  
Petition Number: BE-23-0004

Having considered the evidence presented by the parties in this appeal, the Board hereby:  
**Sustained**  
the determination of the Assessor.

**Assessor's Determination**

Assessor's Land: \$366,000  
Assessor's Improvement: \$1,768,250  
TOTAL: \$2,132,430

**Board of Equalization (BOE) Determination**

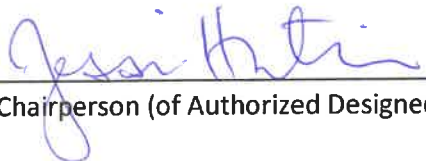
BOE Land: \$366,000  
BOE Improvement: \$1,768,250  
TOTAL: \$2,132,430

**Those in attendance at the hearing and findings:**

Mike Hougardy, Appraiser of the Assessor's Office, was present at the hearing. The decision of the Board is based on the attached Proposed Recommendation by Ann Shaw.

Hearing Held On : October 25, 2023  
Decision Entered On: December 14, 2023  
Hearing Examiner: Ann Shaw

Date Mailed: 12/19/23

  
Chairperson (of Authorized Designee)

  
Clerk of the Board of Equalization

**NOTICE OF APPEAL**

This order can be appealed to the State Board of Tax Appeals by filing a Notice of Appeal with them at PO Box 40915, Olympia, WA 98504-0915, within THIRTY days of the date of mailing on this Order (RCW 84.08.130). The Notice of Appeal form is available from the Washington State Board of Tax Appeals or the Kittitas County Board of Equalization Clerk.

**KITTITAS COUNTY BOARD OF EQUALIZATION- PROPOSED RECOMMENDATION**

Appellants: Gary & Kelli Lackey  
Petition: BE 23-0004  
Parcel: 950175  
Address: 101 Morning Star Lane Cle Elum WA

Hearing: 10/25/23 11:00 AM

Present at hearing: Mike Hougardy, Assessor; Jessica Miller, BOE Clerk; Ann Shaw, Hearing Examiner

Testimony given: Mike Hougardy

Assessor's determination  
Land: \$366,000  
Improvements: \$1,768,250  
Total: \$2,132,430

Taxpayer's estimate  
Land: \$336,000  
Improvements: \$1,624,000  
Total: \$1,960,000

**SUMMATION OF EVIDENCE PRESENTED AND FINDING OF FACT:**

The subject property is a 3,774 Square Foot Home on .91 acres in the Tumble Creek neighborhood of Cle Elum. This home was built in 2021.

The petitioner submitted sales from the area of which three were 2023 sales. These would be considered in next year's valuation.

The assessor's representative submitted sales from 2022 and included the 2022 sale of 100 Blue Flame that the petitioner included in their evidence. Of the sales that the assessor's representative submitted the average price per square foot was \$565/square foot. The range was \$465/SF to \$850/SF.

The assessor used the average price per square foot to place value on this parcel. I asked if there was anything that was abnormal or strange about this property. I was told it is a typical type construction for the area and a normal sized lot.

**CONCLUSIONS OF LAW:**

"Upon review by any court, or appellate body, of a determination of the valuation of property for purposes of taxation, it shall be presumed that the determination of the public official charged with the duty of establishing such value is correct, but this presumption shall not be a defense against any correction indicated by clear, cogent and convincing evidence." RCW 81.40.0301

In other words, the assessor's determination of property value shall be presumed correct. The petitioner can overcome this presumption that the assessor's value is correct only by presenting clear, cogent and convincing evidence otherwise.

"All real property in this state subject to taxation shall be listed and assessed every year, with reference to its value on the first day of January of the year in which it is assessed..."

RCW 84.40.020

"The true and fair value of real property for taxation purposes...must be based upon the following criteria:

- (a) Any sales of the property being appraised or similar properties with respect to sales made within the past five years...
- (b) In addition to sales as defined in subsection (3)(a) of this section, consideration may be given to cost, cost less depreciation, reconstruction cost less depreciation, or capitalization of income that would be derived from prudent use of the property, as limited by law or ordinance..."

RCW 84.40.030(3)

"(1) In making its decision with respect to the value of property, the board shall use the criteria set forth in RCW 84.40.030.

(2) Parties may submit and boards may consider any sales of the subject property or similar properties which occurred prior to the hearing date so long as the requirements of RCW 84.40.030, 84.48.150, and WAC 458-14-066 are complied with. Only sales made within five years of the date of the petition shall be considered.

(3) Any sale of property prior to or after January 1<sup>st</sup> of the year of revaluation shall be adjusted to its value as of January 1 of the year of evaluation, reflecting market activity and using generally accepted appraisal methods...

(4) More weight shall be given to similar sales occurring closest to the assessment date which require the fewest adjustments for characteristics."

WAC 458-14-087

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

The Hearing Examiner has determined that the appellant has not met the burden of proof to overturn the Assessed Value of the property with clear, cogent, and convincing evidence.

The assessor's supportive sales evidence supports the assessed value for this parcel.

Every finding of fact this is a conclusion of law shall be deemed as such. Every conclusion of law that contains a finding of fact shall be deemed as a finding of fact.

**PROPOSED DECISION:**

The Examiner proposes that the Kittitas County Board of Equalization uphold the assessed value.

DATED 12/14/23

Ann Shaw  
Ann Shaw, Hearing Examiner