

KITTITAS COUNTY
BOARD OF EQUALIZATION
411 N Ruby St, Ste 2, Ellensburg, WA 98926
(509) 962-7506

ORDER OF THE KITTITAS COUNTY BOARD OF EQUALIZATION

Property Owner(s): DK Professional Consultants
Mailing Address: 1890 Nelson Siding Rd
Cle Elum, WA 98922
Tax Parcel No(s): 960957
Assessment Year: 2023 (Taxes Payable in 2024)
Petition Number: BE-23-0104

Having considered the evidence presented by the parties in this appeal, the Board hereby:
Overruled - Reduced
the determination of the Assessor.

Assessor's Determination

Assessor's Land: \$295,200
Assessor's Improvement: \$0
TOTAL: \$295,200

Board of Equalization (BOE) Determination

BOE Land: \$125,000
BOE Improvement: \$0
TOTAL: \$125,000

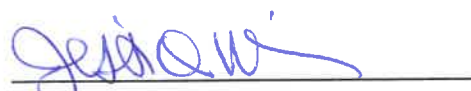
Those in attendance at the hearing and findings:

See attached Recommendation and Proposed Decision of the Hearing Examiner.

Hearing Held On : December 8, 2023
Decision Entered On: February 8, 2024
Hearing Examiner: Jessica Hutchinson

Date Mailed: 2/23/24


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: DK Professional Consultants Inc
Petition: BE-23-0104
Parcel: 960957
Address: Rockberry LP

Hearing: December 8, 2023 10:45 A.M.

Present at hearing: Pat Deneen, Appellant; Anthony Clayton, Appraiser; Jessica Miller, BOE Clerk; Jessica Hutchinson, Hearing Examiner

Testimony given: Pat Deneen, Anthony Clayton

Assessor's determination:
Land: \$295,200
Improvements: \$0
Total: \$295,200

Taxpayer's estimate:
Land: \$50,000
Improvements: \$0
Total: \$50,000

SUMMATION OF EVIDENCE PRESENTED AND FINDING OF FACT:

The subject property is a .96 acre parcel of land surrounding the Evergreen Ridge subdivision.

Mr. Deneen stated that this oddly shaped property is a ridge from flattening the area to allow the 29 cabins to be built in Evergreen Ridge. There is a distinct coal layer in the soil that would be difficult to work with. Additionally, there is no legal access to the property from SR 903.

Mr. Clayton stated that the parcel is valued as buildable. When Planned Unit Developments are happening lot sizes and shapes are constantly changing. The parcel may not have access currently but could be granted in the future as it is part of the PUD and access would become available from one of the surrounding parcels.

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 1st 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 succeeded in meeting the burden of proof to overturn the Assessed Value of the property with clear, cogent and convincing evidence.

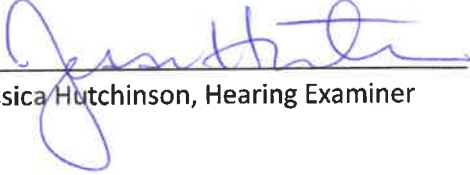
Although the property's size and shape may change in the future, the way it currently sits without access makes it unbuildable in its current state. The recommended reduction would be higher with more documentation.

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 reduce the value to \$125,000.

DATED 12/8/23



Jessica Hutchinson, Hearing Examiner