

**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): Jon Elward  
Mailing Address: 3090 Summit View Road  
Cle Elum, WA 98922  
Tax Parcel No(s): 863034  
Assessment Year: 2023 (Taxes Payable in 2024)  
Petition Number: BE-23-0274

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: \$137,500  
Assessor's Improvement: \$608,560  
TOTAL: \$746,060

Board of Equalization (BOE) Determination

BOE Land: \$137,500  
BOE Improvement: \$608,560  
TOTAL: \$746,060

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

See attached Recommendation and Proposed Decision of the Hearing Examiner.

Hearing Held On : December 4, 2023  
Decision Entered On: December 28, 2023  
Hearing Examiner: Jessica Hutchinson

Date Mailed: 1/12/24

  
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: Jon Elward  
Petition: BE-23-0274  
Parcel: 863034  
Address: 3090 Summit View Rd

Hearing: December 4, 2023 11:40A.M.

Present at hearing: Mike Hougardy, Appraiser; Jessica Miller, BOE Clerk; Jessica Hutchinson-Leavitt, Hearing Examiner

Testimony given: Mike Hougardy, Appraiser

Assessor's determination:  
Land: \$137,500  
Improvements: \$608,560  
Total: \$746,060

Taxpayer's estimate:  
Land: \$137,500  
Improvements: \$500,000  
Total: \$637,500

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

The subject property is a 1651 square foot single family residence built in 2021.

The appellant was not present for the hearing. In their petition, the appellant stated that it is a simple cabin and he does not understand how the value was raised so much. There was no additional evidence or comparable sales provided.

Mr. Hougardy stated that the land was purchased in 2018 for \$300,000 and the appellant estimated the cost of building to be around \$500,000, which would total \$800,000. On the provided list of sales in the area, there are 17 sales most comparable to the subject property, numbers 49-65. For land comparable sales, sale numbers 21-36 are ¾ acre or just over with an average price per acre of \$325,745.

**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.

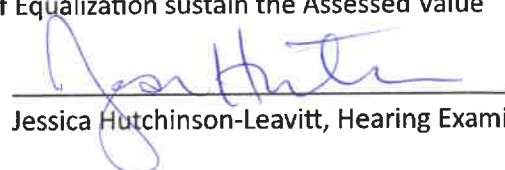
With no comparable sales or other evidence to prove otherwise, the Assessor's valuation is deemed correct.

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 sustain the Assessed Value

DATED 12/28/23

  
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Jessica Hutchinson-Leavitt, Hearing Examiner