

North Lake Tahoe Bonanza

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letters to the editor

Questions for the tax assessor

While I have not been deeply involved with the property tax issue and its many facets, I am struck by the apparent contradiction between the columns and statements in the newspapers that are authored by the Washoe County Tax Assessor, Bob McGowan, and the strategy taken by the county and state lawyers to dismiss the lawsuits against the taxing agencies.

Specifically, Mr. McGowan has stated on numerous occasions that his office follows the law, that if there are injustices, the law should be changed, and that his office is a cooperative, helpful and fair organization

toward the citizenry. Yet, I see that the county and state legal people are trying to get the suits dismissed on technical arguments, namely that the entity that filed the suits, the Village League to Save Incline Assets, does not have the right to represent homeowners in their community.

If Mr. McGowan and his legal representatives really believe that they are following the law, then why wouldn't they want the full cases and all of the allegations heard in a court of law to once-and-for-all determine whether what they are doing is, in fact, legal? They obviously don't want the suits heard. They claim that all 1,400 appellants must go through the administrative process of

county and state bureaucracies before legal action can be taken. But, of course, the boards and processes are geared to protecting one another and legitimate claims are routinely dismissed and ignored.

Since Mr. McGowan has taken to writing columns and making statements in the papers defending his office, maybe he could help me (and many of others) understand why they are so reluctant to have a neutral court determine if what they are doing is legal. If he chooses not to respond, one can only assume they are trying to hide something.

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