

Committee for Fair Real Estate Taxes
At Apple Canyon Lake

Mr. Dan Reimer
County Administrator
Jo Daviess County
330 N. Bench St
Galena, Illinois

September 7th, 2009

Dan:

On behalf of the Committee, we thank you and the other representatives who attended the meeting of September 3rd. While our paths may differ, our goal remains the same, fair assessments throughout Thompson Township.

The following is a summary of the open items from the meeting:

- The committee will edit/delete the paragraph from the Position Paper which references the new Thompson/Apple River Township Assessor.
- The committee will withhold further distribution of the Position Paper pending the outcome of discussions held by the County.
- The JDCCAO will, after conferring with others, forward a statement to the committee indicating there will be no equalization factor placed in Thompson/Apple River Township for the 2009 tax year.
- The JDCCAO will, after conferring with others, determine the feasibility of reassessing lakefront/lake view/golf course lots to be consistent with the values placed by the BOR during the hearings, without the necessity of the owners filing a complaint for 2009.
- The County will review the recommendation of the Committee to engage an outside mass appraisal firm to determine fair market value on vacant lots located at Apple Canyon Lake. Committee is willing to assist in offsetting the cost and requests to be notified when a decision is reached.
- Identify a smaller working group from amongst the participants to continue the dialogue with respect to solving the assessment issues.

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While it was encouraging to learn of the pilot program underway in two of the townships, it was surprising to hear that it has been the JDCCAO who sets the actual fair market value of all the properties. This seems to us a contradiction of the statues and a dilution of the checks and balances as provided for by the Legislators.

Dan, as you can know, the timing of the County's response to the open items is very critical to us. If we are to begin assisting the remaining home owners at ACL with the preparation of challenges for the 2009 tax year, the process needs to begin by November at the latest. We hope that a solution can be agreed upon by then.

Sincerely
The Committee