

From: Dale Washam
Sent: Tuesday, August 10, 2010 4:16 PM
To: Kris Sherman (kris.sherman@thenewstribune.com)
Subject: RE: An urgent request from The News Tribune

From: Kris Sherman [mailto:kris.sherman@thenewstribune.com]
Sent: Tuesday, August 10, 2010 3:06 PM
To: Dale Washam
Subject: Re: An urgent request from The News Tribune

Thanks very much.

Two more questions:

- My understanding is that Mr. Washam signed the certification of the tax rolls in 2009. Why then and not now?

[Response of Assessor-Treasurer] Last year's certification was signed on June 25, 2009. At that time I did not have the substantial verification of the extent of the alleged corruption that took place during the years 2001 through 2008 of the taxpayers assessment records that I have today in 2010.

It must be further noted that there was an independent investigative report done by Ms. Deborah Diamond dated March 19, 2010 that substantiated the law was violated regarding physical inspections during the years 2001 through 2008.

- I know the BOE is a separate body, but does the Assessor-Treasurer's office interact with the Board of Equalization on appeals cases (answer questions, provide information?)

[Response of Assessor-Treasurer] Yes, when pertaining to properties being appealed.

Thanks very much,
Kris

On 8/10/10 2:08 PM, "Dale Washam" <dwasham@co.pierce.wa.us> wrote:

Dale Washam
Pierce County Assessor Treasurer

From: Kris Sherman [<mailto:kris.sherman@thenewstribune.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, August 10, 2010 11:43 AM
To: PCATR; Gretchen Borck
Subject: An urgent request from The News Tribune

Mr. Washam and Ms. Borck,

I have some questions regarding Mr. Washam's recent actions regarding certification of the 2010 tax rolls and his comments about the presumption of correctness.

I would very much appreciate it if I could get answers today.

- What, specifically, was Mr. Washam's intent in his declaration posted on the assessor's website on Monday?

[Response of Assessor-Treasurer] To keep my employers, the citizens/taxpayers of Pierce County, informed.

- Does Mr. Washam expect more property owners will win their appeals because he believes the "presumption of correctness" does not apply?
[Response of Assessor-Treasurer] Property appeals should be determined solely on merit, not on the presumption of correctness.
- Did he ever hear any more from the Department of Revenue about his refusal to certify the 2011 tax rolls?
[Response of Assessor-Treasurer] No
- Did he sign a certification or other document with the language change he proposed? And if so, when did he do so and exactly what did it say?
[Response of Assessor-Treasurer] The Assessor-Treasurer did not sign a certification of the rolls. Instead another document "Report of Assessment Rolls to the County Board of Equalization" was submitted. (Copy Attached)
- Does he have any comment on this issue and recent developments?
[Response of Assessor-Treasurer] I believe in Truth and Justice. When my employers, the citizens/taxpayers of Pierce County, elected/hired me to be their Assessor-Treasurer, I promised to be their trustworthy advocate and to look out for their interests. What I have been doing is seeking Truth & Justice for the taxpayers and keeping my promise to them.
- How many additional assessors has your office requested and what is the status of that request?
[Response of Assessor-Treasurer] Through budget cuts, we have lost four (4) full time appraiser positions and we are facing additional budget cuts. Our request for a supplemental budget to replace some of these lost appraisers, and thereby be able to timely purge all falsified appraisals entered from 2001 through 2008 from the official assessment records, has been rejected.
- Is there an active investigation into the issue of the uninspected properties by any agency that you know of and what is its status?
[Response of Assessor-Treasurer] At present, the Washington State Governor, and the Washington State Attorney General, are considering such an investigation, pursuant to the power vested in them by RCW's 43.10.090; 43.10.230 and 43.10.232.

Thank you for your immediate attention.

I am submitting these questions in writing, as cannot get to the assessor's office today to ask them in person.

Regards,

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