

BEFORE THE NEBRASKA TAX EQUALIZATION
AND REVIEW COMMISSION

KURT L. SKRADIS,)	
)	
Appellant,)	CASE NO. 00R-72
)	
vs.)	
)	ORDER DISMISSING APPEAL
SARPY COUNTY BOARD OF)	FOR FAILURE TO APPEAR
EQUALIZATION,)	AND FOR WANT OF
)	PROSECUTION
Appellee.)	

The Nebraska Tax Equalization and Review Commission ("the Commission") called the above-captioned case for a hearing on the merits of the appeal in the City of Lincoln, Lancaster County, Nebraska, on the 12th day of December, 2001, pursuant to a Notice of Hearing issued the 22nd day of August, 2001.

Kurt L. Skradis ("the Taxpayer") failed to appear at the hearing. The Sarpy County Board of Equalization ("the County") appeared through counsel, Gretchen L. Forney, Deputy Sarpy County Attorney. During the hearing, the Commission took statutory notice of certain information. Each of the Parties was afforded the opportunity to present evidence and argument. The Commission also received all evidence which had been provided by the Parties in accordance with the provisions of the Order for Hearing and Notice of Hearing.

Neb. Rev. Stat. §77-5018 (2001 Supp.) requires that every final decision and order entered by the Commission which is

adverse to a party be stated in writing or on the record and be accompanied by findings of fact and conclusions of law. The Commission, in compliance with that mandate, adopts the following as its final decision and order in this case:

I.
FINDINGS OF FACT

From the pleadings and the evidence contained in the record before it, the Commission finds and determines as follows:

1. That Taxpayer is the owner of record of certain residential real property as legally described in the appeal ("the subject property").
2. That the County Assessor proposed valuing the subject property for purposes of taxation for tax year 2000 in the amount of \$94,280. (E1).
3. That Taxpayer timely protested that determination of value to the Sarpy County Board of Equalization ("the County") and requested that the assessed value be reduced. (E1).
4. That the County denied the protest. (E1:2; E2:1; E3:1).
5. That Taxpayer timely filed an appeal of that decision to the Commission.

6. That County was served with a Notice in Lieu of Summons, and duly answered that Summons.
7. That an Order for Hearing was issued in this case on the 22nd day of August, 2001.
8. That an Affidavit of Service which appears in the records of the Commission establishes that a copy of the Order for Hearing was served on both Parties.
9. That the Order for Hearing required the Parties to exchange copies of all documentary, photographic, or other evidence, and to serve a copy of those exhibits on the Commission.
10. That the Taxpayer did not serve copies of any exhibits either on the County or on the Commission.
11. That a Notice of Hearing was issued in this case on the 22nd day of August, 2001, which set the case for a hearing on the merits of the appeal for the 12th day of December, 2001.
12. That an Affidavit of Service which appears in the records of the Commission establishes that a copy of the Notice of Hearing was served on all parties.
13. That Chapter 4, Title 442, Section 011.01 requires that, if the Taxpayer is a natural person, that person must appear at the hearing.

14. That the Notice of Hearing (Paragraph 7) states that if the Taxpayer fails to appear at the hearing the Commission may enter an order dismissing the case.
15. That the Commission called the above-captioned case for hearing on the merits in the City of Lincoln, Lancaster County, Nebraska, on the 12th day of December, 2001.
16. That no one appeared on behalf of the Taxpayer at the hearing.
17. That County appeared at the hearing through counsel, with its witnesses, and was prepared to defend the decision of the Sarpy County Board of Equalization.
18. That the County moved to dismiss this appeal for failure to appear and for want of prosecution.
19. That each of the parties was afforded an opportunity to present evidence and argument as required by Neb. Rev. Stat. §77-5015 (2000 Cum. Supp.).
20. That each of the parties was afforded an opportunity to cross-examine the witnesses as required by Neb. Rev. Stat. §77-5016(4) (2001 Supp.).

21. That from the record before the Commission, the Taxpayer has failed, neglected and refused to comply with the Order for Hearing, the Notice of Hearing, and with substantive provisions of Title 442.
22. That therefore this appeal should be dismissed for failure to appear and for want of prosecution.
23. That since the filing deadline for appeals to the Commission for tax year 2000, has passed, the appeal should be dismissed with prejudice.

II.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

That the Commission must, and hereby does, conclude as a matter of law that Taxpayer's failure to appear in violation of Title 442, Nebraska Administrative Code, and that for want of prosecution, this appeal should be dismissed with prejudice.

III.

ORDER

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED:

1. That this appeal be, and hereby is, ordered dismissed with prejudice.

2. That Taxpayer's residential real property legally described as Lot 30, Millard Highlands South II, more commonly known as 7122 South 137th Avenue, Sarpy County, Nebraska, shall be valued as follows for tax year 2000, as determined by the Sarpy County Board of Equalization:

Land	\$19,400
Improvements	\$74,880
Total	\$94,280

3. That this decision, if no appeal is filed, shall be certified to the Sarpy County Treasurer, and the Sarpy County Assessor, pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §77-5018(2001 Supp.).
4. That each party is to bear its own costs in this matter.
5. That this decision shall only be applicable to tax year 2000.

IT IS SO ORDERED.


I certify that Commissioner Hans made and entered the above and foregoing Findings and Orders in this appeal on the 12th day of December, 2001. The same were approved and confirmed by

Commissioner Edwards and are therefore deemed to be the Order of the Commission pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §77-5005(5) (2001 Supp.).

Signed and sealed this 12th day of December, 2001.



SEAL



Mark P. Reynolds, Chairman