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Barry Wood
Director Assessment Division
Department of Local Government Finance
Indiana Government Center North
100 North Senate Ave. N1058 (B)
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Dear Barry,

We have completed the 2014 ratio study for Washington County's annual adjustment. We used every sale that was deemed valid for the period January 1, 2012 – February 28, 2014, 2012 sales were included with the commercial and industrial improved and vacant group, including multi parcel sales and sales that were vacant at the time of sale but are now improved. The market in Washington County is static, the sales that are occurring, outside of family and forced sales, are not increasing but stable exhibiting more typical marketing times. We are submitting spreadsheets to explain the sales that were not used in our study and to explain the changes made in the residential under improved category.

Residential and Agricultural Homesites

All townships vacant parcels were grouped together to create a better market area based on similar economic factors. The following townships were grouped together based on their market comparability; Franklin, Howard; Brown, Posey, Vernon, Monroe; Jefferson, Madison, Gibson, Jackson; Polk, Pierce. This method was used in order to establish land rates and adjustment factors using an adequate number of sales for an area rather than just 1 or 2 sales per township. Neighborhoods have been combined when necessary and factors applied when necessary to bring the neighborhoods within IAAO standards. Foreclosed sales have been reviewed by neighborhood to determine if that was the normal market for the area.

Commercial and Industrial

The majority of Commercial and Industrial parcels are in one township and a very low level of sale activity is taking place. Because of the lack of sales Commercial and

Industrial properties have been grouped together to analyze the market trends. The extrapolation method and the land to building ratio were used to verify that the land was reasonable for the market.

Summary

Several pricing methods have been changed and negative influence factors removed to create more uniform land values within the neighborhoods. This did cause the land to increase and/or decrease at different levels, however same size lots are now valued the same. Creation of sub market and market areas have been created to group similar smaller areas together for analyzing data.

We have switched cama vendors and this caused some parcels to have different rates of increase and decrease due to the way the new software calculates some features.

Overall, we saw a very slight increase in value of properties in Washington County. There was only 1 commercial or industrial unimproved land sales, due to most available land for sale in Washington County is in row crop.

If you have any questions feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Jason Cockerill
Washington County Assessor