



Neither Richard E & Colleen R. Batten ("the Taxpayers") were present at the hearing. No one appeared as legal counsel for the Taxpayers.

The Commission took statutory notice and received exhibits.

The Commission is required by Neb. Rev. Stat. §77-5018 (Cum. Supp. 2008) to state its final decision and order concerning an appeal, with findings of fact and conclusions of law, on the record or in writing. The final decision and order of the Commission in this case is as follows.

## **I. FINDINGS**

The Commission finds and determines that:

1. The Taxpayers are the owners of record of certain real property described as Lot 9 NE, Section 23, Township 9, Range 5, in Lancaster County, Nebraska ("the subject property").
2. Prior to March 19, 2008, the County Assessor made a determination that the subject property should be disqualified for use of special valuation.
3. The Taxpayers protested that determination.
4. The County Board reversed the determination of the County Assessor.
5. The County Assessor appealed the County Board's decision to the Commission.
6. The County Board and the Taxpayers were served with Notices in Lieu of Summons and answered those Notices.
7. An Order for Hearing and Notice of Hearing issued on May 20, 2009, set a hearing of the Taxpayer's appeal for July 23, 2009, at 9:00 a.m. CDST.

8. An Affidavit of Service, which appears in the records of the Commission, establishes that a copy of the Order for Hearing and Notice of Hearing was served on all parties.  
(Case File).
9. Each of the parties has been afforded an opportunity to present evidence and argument as provided by Neb. Rev. Stat. §77-5015 (Cum. Supp. 2008).
10. The Taxpayers failed to appear at the hearing.
11. The County Board failed to appear at the hearing.
12. The Order for Hearing and Notice of Hearing issued by the Commission states in Paragraph 2 that if a party fails to appear at the hearing, the Commission may enter an order in favor of the opposing party.
13. The County Assessor moved for an order of default judgment.
14. The County Assessor's motion for an Order of Default Judgment should be granted.

**II.  
CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

1. The Commission has subject matter jurisdiction in this appeal.
2. The Commission is authorized to enter default judgments by Neb. Rev. Stat. §77-5015 (Cum. Supp. 2008).

**III.  
ORDER**

**IT IS ORDERED THAT:**

1. The motion of the County Assessor for a Default Judgment is granted.

2. The decision of the County Board determining that the subject property was eligible for special valuation is vacated and reversed.
3. The subject property was not eligible for special valuation as of the assessment date, January 1, 2008.
4. This decision, if no appeal is timely filed, shall be certified to the Lancaster County Treasurer, and the Lancaster County Assessor, pursuant to Neb. Rev. Stat. §77-5018 (Cum. Supp. 2008).
5. Any request for relief, by any party, which is not specifically provided for by this order is denied.
6. Each party is to bear its own costs in this proceeding.
7. This decision shall only be applicable to tax year 2008.
8. This order is effective for purposes of appeal October 13, 2009.

**Signed and Sealed.** October 13, 2009.

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Wm. R. Wickersham, Commissioner

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Nancy J. Salmon, Commissioner

**SEAL**

**APPEALS FROM DECISIONS OF THE COMMISSION MUST SATISFY THE REQUIREMENTS OF NEB. REV. STAT. §77-5019 (CUM. SUPP. 2008), OTHER PROVISIONS OF NEBRASKA STATUTES, AND COURT RULES.**