



**FINAL ADMINISTRATIVE DECISION  
ILLINOIS PROPERTY TAX APPEAL BOARD**

APPELLANT: Wolcott Group LLC  
DOCKET NO.: 09-33340.001-R-1 through 09-33340.002-R-1  
PARCEL NO.: See Below

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Wolcott Group LLC, the appellant(s), by attorney Patrick J. Cullerton, of Thompson Coburn LLP in Chicago; and the Cook County Board of Review.

Based on the facts and exhibits presented, the Property Tax Appeal Board hereby finds no change in the assessment of the property as established by the Cook County Board of Review is warranted. The correct assessed valuation of the property is:

DOCKET NO	PARCEL NUMBER	LAND	IMPRVMT	TOTAL
09-33340.001-R-1	19-01-421-001-0000	3,437	28,069	\$ 31,506
09-33340.002-R-1	19-01-421-002-0000	3,437	395	\$ 3,832

Subject only to the State multiplier as applicable.

**Statement of Jurisdiction**

The appellant timely filed the appeal from a decision of the Cook County Board of Review pursuant to section 16-160 of the Property Tax Code (35 ILCS 200/16-160) challenging the assessment for the 2009 tax year. The Property Tax Appeal Board (the "Board") finds that it has jurisdiction over the parties and the subject matter of the appeal.

**Findings of Fact**

The subject consists of a two-story dwelling of frame and masonry construction with 4,068 square feet of living area. The dwelling is 96 years old. Features of the home include a partial unfinished basement. The property has a 3,125 square foot site, and is located in Chicago, Lake Township, Cook County. The subject is classified as a class 2-12 property under the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance.

The appellant contends assessment inequity as the basis of the appeal. In support of this argument, the appellant submitted information on five equity comparables.

The appellant also argued that he is entitled to a reduction as a matter of law. See Hoyne Savings & Loan Ass'n. v. Hare, 60 Ill.

2d 84, 90 (1974); see also 400 Condominium Ass'n. v. Tully, 79 Ill. App. 3d 686 (1979).

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" disclosing the total assessment for the subject of \$35,338. The subject property has an improvement assessment of \$28,069, or \$6.90 per square foot of living area.

In support of its contention of the correct assessment, the board of review submitted information on four equity comparables. The board of review also submitted evidence disclosing the subject property was purchased on January 1, 2007 for a price of \$450,000. The board of review also argued that Hoyne is inapplicable to this case.

### Conclusion of Law

The taxpayer contends assessment inequity as the basis of the appeal. When unequal treatment in the assessment process is the basis of the appeal, the inequity of the assessments must be proved by clear and convincing evidence. 86 Ill.Admin.Code §1910.63(e). Proof of unequal treatment in the assessment process should consist of documentation of the assessments for the assessment year in question of not less than three comparable properties showing the similarity, proximity and lack of distinguishing characteristics of the assessment comparables to the subject property. 86 Ill.Admin.Code §1910.65(b). The Board finds the appellant did not meet this burden of proof and a reduction in the subject's assessment is not warranted.

The Board finds the best evidence of assessment equity to be appellant's comparables #2 and #3 and board of review comparables #1 and #2. These comparables had improvement assessments that ranged from \$4.49 to \$7.37 per square foot of living area. The subject's assessment of \$6.90 per square foot of living area falls within the range established by the best comparables in this record. Based on this record, the Board finds the appellant did not demonstrate with clear and convincing evidence that the subject's improvement was inequitably assessed, and a reduction in the subject's assessment is not justified.

As a final note, evidence showing that the subject received a reduction in a later assessment year is admissible, and can be a relevant factor in determining whether the assessment for the tax year at issue is grossly excessive. Hoyne Savings & Loan Ass'n. v. Hare, 60 Ill. 2d 84, 90 (1974); see also 400 Condominium Ass'n. v. Tully, 79 Ill. App. 3d 686 (1979). However, in "those unique cases, which are confined to their facts, there were glaring errors in the tax assessment." John J. Moroney and Co. v. Ill. Prop. Tax Appeal Bd., 2013 IL App (1st) 120493, ¶ 46.

The Appellate Court's decision in Moroney limited its previous rulings in Hoyne and 400 Condominium Association to situations where there is a "glaring error." The Board does not find that there is a "glaring error" in the subject's assessment for tax

year 2009 when looking at the subject's subsequent assessment for tax year 2010 as determined by the board of review. While the subject's 2010 assessment is *different* that its 2009 assessment, the Board finds that this difference is not a "glaring error" as required by Moroney. For these reasons, the Board finds this argument is without merit based on the evidence contained in the record.

This is a final administrative decision of the Property Tax Appeal Board which is subject to review in the Circuit Court or Appellate Court under the provisions of the Administrative Review Law (735 ILCS 5/3-101 et seq.) and section 16-195 of the Property Tax Code.

*Donald R. Cuit*

Chairman

*K. L. Fern*

Member

*Tracy A. Huff*

Member

*Marko M. Lott*

Member

*J. R.*

Member

DISSENTING: \_\_\_\_\_

C E R T I F I C A T I O N

As Clerk of the Illinois Property Tax Appeal Board and the keeper of the Records thereof, I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true, full and complete Final Administrative Decision of the Illinois Property Tax Appeal Board issued this date in the above entitled appeal, now of record in this said office.

Date: February 20, 2015

*A. P. ...*

Clerk of the Property Tax Appeal Board

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**

Section 16-185 of the Property Tax Code provides in part:

"If the Property Tax Appeal Board renders a decision lowering the assessment of a particular parcel after the deadline for filing

complaints with the Board of Review or after adjournment of the session of the Board of Review at which assessments for the subsequent year are being considered, the taxpayer may, within 30 days after the date of written notice of the Property Tax Appeal Board's decision, appeal the assessment for the subsequent year directly to the Property Tax Appeal Board."

In order to comply with the above provision, YOU MUST FILE A PETITION AND EVIDENCE WITH THE PROPERTY TAX APPEAL BOARD WITHIN 30 DAYS OF THE DATE OF THE ENCLOSED DECISION IN ORDER TO APPEAL THE ASSESSMENT OF THE PROPERTY FOR THE SUBSEQUENT YEAR.

Based upon the issuance of a lowered assessment by the Property Tax Appeal Board, the refund of paid property taxes is the responsibility of your County Treasurer. Please contact that office with any questions you may have regarding the refund of paid property taxes.