

PROPERTY TAX APPEAL BOARD'S DECISION

APPELLANT: Thomas Paker  
DOCKET NO.: 03-30238.001-R-1  
PARCEL NO.: 13-13-405-035-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board (PTAB) are Thomas Paker, the appellant, by attorney Michael E. Crane of Crane and Norcross of Chicago, and the Cook County Board of Review (board).

The subject property consists of an 88-year-old, two-story, two-unit apartment building of masonry construction containing 2,070 square feet of living area and located in Jefferson Township, Cook County. The apartment property includes two bathrooms, a finished basement and a two-car garage.

The appellant, through counsel, submitted evidence before the PTAB claiming unequal treatment in the assessment process as the basis of the appeal. In support of this argument, the appellant offered four suggested comparable properties located within a quarter mile of the subject. These properties consist of two-story, three, four or six-unit apartment buildings of masonry or frame construction and range in age from 81 to 96 years. The comparables include three, four or six bathrooms, full basements and one site has a two-car garage. The comparables contain between 3,522 and 6,021 square feet of living area and have improvement assessments ranging from \$28,857 to \$42,341 or from \$7.03 to \$9.44 per square foot of living area. In addition, the appellant requested relief due to the subject's diminished income due to vacancy and requested a 50% vacancy factor based on occupancy affidavits and income evidence. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested a reduction in the subject's assessment.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" wherein the subject's final improvement assessment of \$34,180, or \$16.52 per square foot of living area, was disclosed. In support of the subject's assessment, the board of review

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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:

LAND: \$ 5,400  
IMPR. \$34,180  
TOTAL: \$39,580

Subject only to the State multiplier as applicable.

PTAB/TMcG.

offered four suggested comparable properties located within a block of the subject. The comparables consist of two-story, two-unit buildings of masonry construction. The comparables range in age from 90 to 92 years and have full basements. They have two bathrooms and one or two-car garages. The comparable properties range in size from 1,848 to 2,070 square feet of living area with improvement assessments ranging from \$32,461 to \$34,075 or from \$16.44 to \$17.78 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence, the board of review requested confirmation of the subject property's assessment.

After reviewing the record and considering the evidence, the Property Tax Appeal Board finds that it has jurisdiction over the parties and the subject matter of this appeal. The Illinois Supreme Court has held that taxpayers who object to an assessment on the basis of lack of uniformity bear the burden of proving the disparity of assessment valuations by clear and convincing evidence. Kankakee County Board of Review v. Property Tax Appeal Board, 131 Ill.2d 1 (1989). The evidence must demonstrate a consistent pattern of assessment inequities within the assessment jurisdiction. After an analysis of the assessment data, the Board finds the appellant has failed to overcome this burden.

The Board finds the appellant's argument that the subject's assessment is excessive when applying an income and vacancy approach to value is unconvincing and not supported by evidence in the record. In Springfield Marine Bank v. Property Tax Appeal Board, 44 Ill.2d 428 (1970), the court stated:

[I]t is the value of the "tract or lot of real property" which is assessed, rather than the value of the interest presently held. . . [R]ental income may of course be a relevant factor. However, it cannot be the controlling factor, particularly where it is admittedly misleading as to the fair cash value of the property involved. . . [E]arning capacity is properly regarded as the most significant element in arriving at "fair cash value".

Many factors may prevent a property owner from realizing an income from property, which accurately reflects its true earning capacity; but it is the capacity for earning income, rather than the income actually derived, which reflects "fair cash value" for taxation purposes. Springfield Marine Bank v. Property Tax Appeal Board 44 Ill.2d 428 at 431

Actual expenses and income can be useful when shown that they are reflective of the market. The appellant did not demonstrate that the subject's actual income and expenses were reflective of the market. To demonstrate or estimate the subject's market value

using an income approach, as the appellant attempted, one must establish through the use of market data the market rent, vacancy and collection losses, and expenses to arrive at a net operating income. Further, the appellant must establish through the use of market data a capitalization rate to convert the net income into an estimate of market value. The appellant failed to follow this procedure in developing the income approach to value; therefore, the Property Tax Appeal Board gives this argument no weight.

The PTAB finds the board's comparables are very similar to the subject. These properties have improvement assessments ranging from \$16.44 to \$17.78 per square foot of living area. The subject's per square foot improvement assessment of \$16.52 is within this range of properties. The Board finds the appellant's comparables carry less weight because they are less similar to the subject in living area, construction and number of units. After considering adjustments and the differences in both parties' suggested comparables when compared to the subject property, the PTAB finds the evidence is insufficient to effect a change in the subject's assessment.

As a result of this analysis, the PTAB finds the appellant did not adequately demonstrate that the subject apartment building was inequitably assessed by clear and convincing evidence and a reduction is not warranted.

This is a final administrative decision of the Property Tax Appeal Board are 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.



Chairman



Member



Member



Member



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: September 28, 2007



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.