PROPERTY TAX APPEAL BOARD'S DECISION

APPELLANT: John Raith
DOCKET NO.: 05-24646.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 05-21-310-020-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are John Raith, the appellant, by attorney Mitchell L. Klein of Schiller, Klein & McElroy, P.C. and attorney Robert Rosenfeld, Chicago, and the Cook County Board of Review.

The subject property consists of an 85-year-old, two-story, single-family dwelling of masonry construction containing 2,364 square feet of living area. Features of the residence include two and one-half bathrooms, air-conditioning, a fireplace and a two-car detached garage. The subject is built on slab and located in New Trier Township, Cook County.

The appellant, through counsel, submitted evidence before the Property Tax Appeal Board arguing unequal treatment in the assessment process of the improvement as the basis of the appeal. In support of this claim, the appellant submitted assessment data and descriptive information on three properties suggested as comparable to the subject. The appellant also submitted a one-page brief, photographs of the subject and the suggested comparables as well as a copy of the board of review's decision. Based on the appellant's documents, the three suggested comparables consist of two-story, single-family dwellings of masonry or stucco construction with the same neighborhood code as the subject. The improvements range in size from 2,374 to 2,462 square feet of living area and range in age from 78 to 86 years. The comparables contain two, two and one-half or three full bathrooms, a full-unfinished basement and a one-car or two-car detached garage. Two comparables have a fireplace. The improvement assessments range from $22.18 to $23.18 per square foot of living area. Based on the evidence submitted, the appellant requested a reduction in the subject's improvement assessment.

(Continued on Next Page)

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:	$ 19,641
IMPR.:	$ 68,787
TOTAL:	$ 88,428

Subject only to the State multiplier as applicable.

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The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" disclosing the subject's total assessment of $88,428. The subject's improvement assessment is $68,787 or $29.10 per square foot of living area. In support of the assessment the board submitted property characteristic printouts and descriptive data on three properties suggested as comparable to the subject. The suggested comparables are improved with two-story, single-family dwellings of masonry construction with the same neighborhood code as the subject. The improvements range in size from 2,364 to 2,985 square feet of living area and range in age from 79 to 82 years. The comparables contain three or three and one-half bathrooms, a finished or unfinished basement, one or two fireplaces and a one-car attached garage. Two comparables have air-conditioning. The improvement assessments range from $29.08 to $30.08 per square foot of living area. The board's evidence disclosed that the subject property sold in June 2004 for $965,000. Based on the evidence presented, the board of review requested confirmation of the subject's assessment.

In rebuttal, the appellant's attorney submitted a one-page letter highlighting various differences between the subject and the board of review's suggested comparables.

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 appellant's argument was unequal treatment in the assessment process. 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 not overcome this burden.

The Board finds the appellant's comparable one and the board of review's comparables one and three to be the most similar properties to the subject in the record. These three properties are similar to the subject in improvement size, amenities, age and location and have improvement assessments ranging from $22.18 to $30.08 per square foot of living area. The subject's per square foot improvement assessment of $29.10 falls within the range established by these properties. The Board finds the remaining comparables less similar to the subject in improvement size and/or exterior construction. After considering adjustments and the differences in both parties' suggested comparables when compared to the subject, the Board finds the subject's per square foot improvement assessment is supported by the most similar properties contained in the record.
As a result of this analysis, the Property Tax Appeal Board finds the appellant has failed to adequately demonstrate that the subject dwelling 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 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.

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: August 29, 2008

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.