

PROPERTY TAX APPEAL BOARD'S DECISION

APPELLANT: George Papajohn
DOCKET NO.: 05-25056.001-R-1 and 05-25056.002-R-1
PARCEL NO.: See below

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board (PTAB) are George Papajohn, the appellant, by attorney Ronald G. Glosniak with the law firm of Leff, Cohen & Winkler, LTD. in Chicago, and the Cook County Board of Review (board).

The subject property consists of a 52-year-old, one and one-half story, single-family dwelling of frame construction containing 1,735 square feet of living area. Features of the residence include two and one-half bathrooms, a full-unfinished basement, a fireplace, air-conditioning and a two-car detached garage. The subject is prorated over two tax parcels and located in Northfield Township, Cook County.

The appellant, through counsel, appeared before the PTAB 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 four-page brief, photographs and property printouts for 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 one-story or one and one-half story, single-family dwellings of masonry or frame and masonry construction with the same neighborhood code as the subject. The improvements range in size from 1,259 to 1,690 square feet of living area and range in age from 48 to 66 years. The comparables contain one or one and one-half bathrooms, air-conditioning, a fireplace and a one-car or two-car garage. Two comparables contain a partial or full-unfinished basement. The improvement assessments range from \$18.18 to \$19.63 per square foot of living area. At hearing, the appellant's attorney argued that the appellant's comparables are similar to the subject and should be considered

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Based on the facts and exhibits presented, the Property Tax Appeal Board hereby finds a reduction 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:

Table with 5 columns: Docket No., Parcel No., Land, Imprv., Total. It lists two rows of property data with their respective assessed values.

Subject only to the State multiplier as applicable.

as such by the PTAB. Based on the evidence submitted, the appellant requested a reduction in the subject's improvement assessment.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" disclosing the subject's total combined assessment of \$53,204. The subject's improvement assessment is \$38,842 or \$22.39 per square foot of living area. In support of the assessment, the board submitted property characteristic printouts and descriptive data on four properties suggested as comparable to the subject. The suggested comparables are improved with one-story, single-family dwellings of frame construction with the same neighborhood code as the subject. The improvements range in size from 1,073 to 1,595 square feet of living area and range in age from 47 to 56 years. The comparables contain from one to two and one-half bathrooms and a finished or unfinished basement. One comparable contains air-conditioning, two comparables have a fireplace and two comparables contain a two-car garage. The improvement assessments range from \$12.24 to \$24.03 per square foot of living area. Based on the evidence presented, the board of review requested confirmation of the subject's assessment.

In rebuttal, the appellant's attorney highlighted various differences between the subject and the board of review's comparables.

After hearing the testimony and considering the evidence, the PTAB 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.

The Board finds the appellant's comparables two and three and the board of review's comparable one to be the most similar properties to the subject in the record. These three properties are similar to the subject in improvement size, age, amenities and location and have improvement assessments ranging from \$12.24 to \$19.63 per square foot of living area. The subject's per square foot improvement assessment of \$22.39 falls above the range established by these properties. The Board further finds the remaining comparables less similar to the subject in improvement size. 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 not supported by the most similar properties contained in the record.

As a result of this analysis, the PTAB finds the appellant has adequately demonstrated that the subject dwelling was inequitably

assessed by clear and convincing evidence and a reduction is 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

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: December 5, 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.