



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

APPELLANT: Jeff Sophian
DOCKET NO.: 06-20275.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 15-12-310-017-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Jeff Sophian, the appellant(s), by attorney Allen A. Lefkovitz, of Allen A. Lefkovitz & Assoc. P.C. in Chicago; and the Cook County Board of Review.

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:

LAND: \$ 6,052
IMPR.: \$ 34,428
TOTAL: \$ 40,480

Subject only to the State multiplier as applicable.

ANALYSIS

The subject property is improved with a two-story dwelling of masonry construction containing 1,977 square feet of living area. The dwelling is 73 years old. Features of the home include a full, unfinished basement, central air conditioning and a two-car garage.

The appellant submitted evidence before the Property Tax Appeal Board claiming overvaluation as the basis of the appeal. In support of the overvaluation argument, the appellant submitted an appraisal report in which a market value of \$400,000 was estimated for the subject property as of February 16, 2006. The cost and sales comparison approaches were utilized in the report. As a result, 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 assessment of \$47,564 was disclosed. The subject's assessment reflects a market value of \$470,000 using the 2006 three year median level of assessments for class 2 property of 10.12%. In support of the subject's assessment, the board of review offered the property characteristic sheets and a spreadsheet detailing four suggested

comparable properties. The comparable properties consist of two-story masonry dwellings that are between 64 and 84 years old. They have full, unfinished basements, one has a fireplace and three have a garage. They range in size from 1,018 to 1,788 square feet and have improvement assessments ranging from \$22.99 to \$31.48 per square foot. The subject has an assessment of \$21.00 per square foot of living area. The board of review also submitted a list of sales prices and sales dates for 20 properties. However, descriptions of these properties were not submitted. Based on this evidence, the board of review requested confirmation of the subject's assessment.

In written rebuttal, the appellant noted differences between the subject property and the comparables submitted by the board of review with respect to size and age. In addition, the appellant introduced five new comparables that are listed for sale and assessed for less than the subject.

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 claimed the subject property's assessment was not reflective of its true market value. When market value is the basis of the appeal, the value must be proved by a preponderance of the evidence. Winnebago County Board of Review v. Property Tax Appeal Board, 313 Ill.App.3d 179, 183, 728 N.E.2d 1256 (2d Dist. 2000). The Board finds that based on the evidence contained in the record the appellant has sufficiently established overvaluation by a preponderance of the evidence and a reduction in the subject's total assessment is warranted.

The appellants' comparables submitted with the rebuttal evidence were given no weight by the Board in its analysis pursuant to Section 1910.66, subsection b) of the Property Tax Appeal Board's Official Rules which state:

Rebuttal evidence shall not consist of new evidence such as an appraisal or newly discovered comparable properties. A party to the appeal shall be precluded from submitting its own case in chief in the guise of rebuttal evidence.

The Board finds the appraisal report submitted by the appellant in which a market value of \$400,000 was estimated for the subject on February 2, 2006 is the best evidence of the subject's market value as of the January 1, 2006 assessment date. The subject's assessment reflects a market value of \$470,000 and is in excess of the market value estimate contained in the recent appraisal report. The board of review submitted no evidence to refute the findings contained in the appraisal report. Moreover, the board of review failed to address the appellant's market value contention. Although a list of sales of properties in the subject's neighborhood was submitted, there were no descriptions of these properties to compare with the subject. Thus, the Board finds the subject has a market value of \$400,000 and the 2006

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three-year median level of assessments for Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance Class 2 property of 10.12% as determined by the Illinois Department of Revenue shall apply. (86 Ill.Admin.Code 1910.50(c)(2))

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.

Ronald R. Cuit

Chairman

K. L. Fern

Member

Frank A. Huff

Member

Mario Morris

Member

Shawn R. Lerbis

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: April 23, 2010

Allen Castrovillari

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.