



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

APPELLANT: Frank A. Bernatowicz
DOCKET NO.: 06-25147.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 18-19-103-064-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Frank A. Bernatowicz, the appellant, by attorney Anthony M. Farace, of Amari & Locallo 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: \$ 34,150
IMPR.: \$ 164,775
TOTAL: \$ 198,925**

Subject only to the State multiplier as applicable.

ANALYSIS

The subject property is improved with a two-story dwelling of masonry construction containing 6,591 square feet of living area. The dwelling is six years old. Features of the home include a full, unfinished basement, central air conditioning, three fireplaces and a four-car garage.

The appellant's appeal is based on unequal treatment in the assessment process. In support of this argument, the appellant submitted information on ten comparable properties located in the same tax block or adjacent tax block as the subject. They are described as two-story masonry dwellings that range in age from nine to 16 years old and range in size from 5,124 to 13,930 square feet of living area. The comparables have full basements, central air conditioning, one to four fireplaces and a three or four-car garage. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$18.38 to \$25.95 per square foot of living area. The subject's improvement assessment is \$31.00 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested a reduction in the subject's improvement assessment.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" wherein the subject's final assessment was disclosed.

The board of review presented descriptions and assessment information on two comparable properties. One is in the same tax block as the subject and the other .6 miles from the subject. They consist of two-story masonry dwellings that are four and six years old. One is in average condition and the other is in deluxe condition. The subject is in average condition. The dwellings contain 5,940 and 6,667 square feet of living area. They have full, unfinished basements, central air conditioning, two or five fireplaces and a two and one-half or three-car garage. These properties have improvement assessments of \$31.35 and \$41.33 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence, the board of review requested confirmation of the subject'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 Board further finds a reduction in the subject's assessment is warranted.

The appellant contends unequal treatment in the subject's improvement assessment as the basis of the appeal. 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). After an analysis of the assessment data, the Board finds the appellant has met this burden.

The Board finds that most weight was placed on the comparables located in the same tax block or adjacent tax block as the subject. Thus, the board of review's comparable one was given less weight in the Board's analysis based on location. The Board also placed less weight on the board of review's comparable two since this property was in deluxe condition, while the subject is in average condition. The appellant's comparables six and seven were substantially larger than the subject and also received reduced weight. The remaining comparables, appellant's comparables #1 through #5 and #8 through #10, were generally similar to the subject in size and age. They were also similar to the subject in design, exterior construction and foundation. Due to their similarities to the subject, these comparables received the most weight in the Board's analysis. The comparables had improvement assessments ranging from \$18.38 to \$25.95 per square foot of living area. The subject's improvement assessment of \$31.00 per square foot of living area is above the range established by the most similar comparables. After considering adjustments and the differences in both parties' comparables when compared to the subject, the Board finds the subject's improvement assessment is not equitable and a reduction in the subject's assessment 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.

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: June 18, 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.