



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

APPELLANT: George Polymenakos
DOCKET NO.: 06-31549.001-C-1
PARCEL NO.: 21-31-207-040-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are George Polymenakos, the appellant, by attorney Mary T. Nicolau, of Smith/Nicolau 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 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: \$ 16,588
IMPR.: \$ 47,742
TOTAL: \$ 64,330

Subject only to the State multiplier as applicable.

ANALYSIS

The subject property consists of an 8,731 square foot parcel of land improved with a 51-year old, one-story, commercial building. The improvement contains 1,539 square feet of building area and is used as a fast-food restaurant.

On a procedural note, the appellant's attorney submitted a proposed stipulation at \$50,000, which she asserted was the assessment that the subject's 2007 property tax appeal was settled. The Board forwarded the proposed stipulation to the board of review's attention while accorded the county a 30-day window within which to object to the proposed settlement. The board of review timely responded rejecting the appellant's proposal.

The appellant's attorney argued that the market value of the subject property is not accurately reflected in the property's assessed valuation as the basis of this appeal.

In support of the market value argument, the appellant's attorney developed an income analysis. Using actual rental data for the commercial operation, the potential gross income was estimated at

\$25,500 less vacancy and collection loss at 7.5%, expenses at 15%, as well as management and reserves at 10% resulted in a net operating income of \$17,213. Capitalizing this amount by 17.5% resulted in an estimated market value of \$98,357. In support of this data, the attorney submitted correspondence and copies of the subject's actual income and loss supplemental IRS tax form for tax years 2004 and 2005. Based upon this analysis, the appellant requested a reduction in the subject's assessment.

The board of review submitted "Board of Review-Notes on Appeal" wherein the subject's total assessment was \$64,330. This assessment reflects a market value of \$169,288 or \$110.00 per square foot when the Cook County Ordinance level of assessment for class 5a, commercial property of 38% is applied.

In support of the subject's market value, the board submitted raw sales data was submitted for four properties. The data from the CoStar Comps service sheets reflect that the research was licensed to the assessor's office, but failed to indicate that there was any verification of the information or sources of data. The properties sold in an unadjusted range from \$102.50 to \$364.32 per square foot, while the buildings ranged in size from 1,380 to 2,000 square feet. The printouts indicated that: sale #1 was a retail storefront, sales #2 and #4 were general freestanding retail; while sale #3 was a retail/fast food location. Further, the printouts indicated that there were no real estate brokers for the buyers relating to sales #1 and #2, while sale #4 failed to include a real estate broker for either party to this sales transaction. Based on this evidence, the board of review requested confirmation of the subject's assessment.

After considering the parties' arguments as well as reviewing the evidence, the Property Tax Appeal Board finds that it has jurisdiction over the parties and the subject matter of this appeal.

When overvaluation is claimed, the appellant has the burden of proving the value of the property by a preponderance of the evidence. National City Bank of Michigan/Illinois v. Illinois Property Tax Appeal Board, 331Ill.App.3d 1038 (3rd Dist. 2002); Winnebago County Board of Review v. Property Tax Appeal Board, 313 Ill.App.3d 179 (2nd Dist. 2000). Proof of market value may consist of an appraisal, a recent arm's length sale of the subject property, recent sales of comparable properties, or recent construction costs of the subject property. 86 Ill.Admin.Code 1910.65(c). Having considered the evidence presented, the Board concludes that the evidence indicates a reduction is not warranted.

The Board finds the appellant's argument that the subject's assessment is excessive when applying an income approach based on the subject's actual income and expenses or unsupported estimates of income unconvincing. In Springfield Marine Bank v. Property Tax Appeal Board, 44 Ill.2d 428 (1970), the court stated:

it is the value of the "tract or lot of real property" 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 430-431.

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 Board gives this argument no weight.

As a result of this analysis, the Board finds the appellant has not adequately demonstrated 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.

Ronald R. Cuit

Chairman

K. L. Fern

Member

Frank A. Huff

Member

Mario Morris

Member

Shawn P. 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: October 21, 2011

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.