



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

APPELLANT: Robert Jones  
DOCKET NO.: 07-06132.001-R-1  
PARCEL NO.: 18-014-080-00

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Robert Jones, the appellant, and the Jo Daviess 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 Jo Daviess County Board of Review is warranted. The correct assessed valuation of the property is:

**LAND:** \$23,333  
**IMPR.:** \$40,244  
**TOTAL:** \$63,577

Subject only to the State multiplier as applicable.

**ANALYSIS**

The subject property consists of a 27-year old, one-story frame single-family dwelling containing 1,008 square feet of living area. The dwelling features a full basement which is partially finished, central air conditioning, and a 480 square foot garage. The property is located in Apple River, Thomson Township, Jo Daviess County, Illinois.

The appellant submitted evidence before the Property Tax Appeal Board arguing overvaluation as the basis of the appeal. In support of this claim, the appellant submitted sales information on four suggested comparable properties. The appellant also reported the subject property was purchased in May 2005 for \$171,540. The appellant asserted the latest revision of the assessment would reflect an increase in value since the purchase of 12.5% per year. The evidence further revealed that the appellant did not file a complaint with the board of review, but filed this appeal directly to the Property Tax Appeal Board following receipt of the notice of an equalization factor. Based

on this evidence, the appellant requested a reduction in the subject's assessment to \$57,556.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" wherein the subject's final assessment of \$71,563 was disclosed. After reviewing the appellant's evidence, the board of review agreed to reduce the subject's assessment by the amount of increase caused by the application of the equalization factor or to \$63,577.

The appellant was notified of this suggested agreement and given thirty (30) days to respond if the offer was not acceptable. The appellant responded to the Property Tax Appeal Board by the established deadline rejecting the board of review's proposed assessment and further noted that the 2008 assessment of the subject property was recently reduced to \$61,534. Based on the 2008 assessment reduction, the appellant contended the subject's reduction should at least be equivalent to the 2008 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 appellant argued the subject property was overvalued and inequitably assessed. 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 (2nd Dist. 2000). The Board finds the appellant has met this burden. However, the record indicates that the appellant did not file a complaint with the board of review, but appealed the subject's assessment directly to the Property Tax Appeal Board based on notice of an equalization factor.

Since the appeal was filed after notification of an equalization factor, the amount of relief that the Property Tax Appeal Board can grant is limited. Section 1910.60(a) of the Official Rules of the Property Tax Appeal Board states in part:

If the taxpayer or owner of property files a petition within 30 days after the postmark date of the written notice of the application of final, adopted township equalization factors, the relief the Property Tax Appeal Board may grant is limited to the amount of the increase caused by the application of the township equalization factor. (86 Ill. Admin. Code §1910.60(a)).

Additionally, Section 16-180 of the Property Tax Code provides in pertinent part:

Where no complaint has been made to the board of review of the county where the property is located and the appeal is based solely on the effect of an equalization factor assigned to all property or to a class of property by the board of review, the Property Tax

Appeal Board **may not grant a reduction in the assessment greater than the amount that was added as the result of the equalization factor.** (35 ILCS 200/16-180). [Emphasis added.]

These provisions mean that where a taxpayer files an appeal directly to the Property Tax Appeal Board after notice of application of an equalization factor, the Board cannot grant an assessment reduction greater than the amount of increase caused by the equalization factor. Villa Retirement Apartments, Inc. v. Property Tax Appeal Board, 302 Ill. App. 3d 745, 753 (4<sup>th</sup> Dist. 1999). Based on a review of the evidence contained in the record, the Property Tax Appeal Board finds a reduction in the assessment of the subject property is supported. However, the reduction is limited to the increase in the assessment caused by the application of the equalization factor and no reduction below that amount, including but not limited to, reducing the assessment to the 2008 assessment amount is allowable under law. Thus, the Board finds a reduction in the subject's assessed valuation commensurate with the board of review's proposal is correct.

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. Guit*

Chairman

*K. L. Fern*

Member

*Frank A. Grief*

Member

*Mark Morris*

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 23, 2009

*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.