



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

APPELLANT: Robert & Diana Somrek
DOCKET NO.: 07-06592.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 03-00-069-320

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Robert & Diana Somrek, the appellants; and the Putnam 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 Putnam County Board of Review is warranted. The correct assessed valuation of the property is:

LAND: \$33,219
IMPR.: \$54,456
TOTAL: \$87,675

Subject only to the State multiplier as applicable.

ANALYSIS

The subject property consists of a one and one-half story frame dwelling containing 1,410 square feet of living area that was built in 1995. Features include a full basement that is 90% finished, central air conditioning, a fireplace, and a two-car detached garage.

The appellants submitted evidence before the Property Tax Appeal Board claiming overvaluation as the basis of the appeal. In support of this claim, the appellants submitted an appeal petition, a Real Estate Transfer Declaration, a settlement statement and a sales contract detailing the subject property's sale. The documentation revealed the appellants purchased the subject property for \$262,500 in November 2005. The evidence indicates the subject property was advertised for sale in the open market for over one year and the parties to the transaction were unrelated. Based on this evidence, the appellants requested a reduction in the subject's assessment to reflect its sale price.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" wherein the subject's final assessment of \$97,166 was

disclosed. The subject's assessment reflects an estimated market value of \$290,918 when applying Putnam County's 2007 three-year median level of assessment of 33.40%.

In support of the subject's assessment, the board of review submitted a short letter addressing the appeal and an appraisal of the subject property. The appraisal report estimated a fair market value for the subject property of \$291,500 as of October 17, 2005. The board of review argued the subject's assessment was reduced to reflect the appraised value and no further reduction is warranted. 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 appellants contend the market value of the subject property is not accurately reflected in its assessed valuation. When market value is the basis of the appeal the value of the property must be proved by a preponderance of the evidence. National City Bank of Michigan/Illinois v. Illinois Property Tax Appeal Board, 331 Ill.App.3d 1038 (3rd Dist. 2002). Proof of market value may consist of an appraisal of the subject property, a recent sale, comparable sales or construction costs. (86 Ill.Admin.Code §1910.65(c)). The Board finds the appellant met this burden of proof and a reduction in the subject's assessment is warranted.

The Illinois Supreme Court has defined fair cash value as what the property would bring at a voluntary sale where the owner is ready, willing, and able to sell but not compelled to do so, and the buyer is ready, willing and able to buy but not forced to do so. Springfield Marine Bank v. Property Tax Appeal Board, 44 Ill.2d. 428, (1970). A contemporaneous sale of property between parties dealing at arm's-length is a relevant factor in determining the correctness of an assessment and may be **practically conclusive on the issue of whether an assessment is reflective of market value.** (Emphasis Added) Rosewell v. 2626 Lakeview Limited Partnership, 120 Ill.App.3d 369 (1st Dist. 1983), People ex rel. Munson v. Morningside Heights, Inc., 45 Ill.2d 338 (1970), People ex rel. Korzen v. Belt Railway Co. of Chicago, 37 Ill.2d 158 (1967); and People ex rel. Rhodes v. Turk, 391 Ill. 424 (1945). The Property Tax Appeal Board finds there is no evidence showing the subject's sale was not an arm's-length transaction. In fact, Board finds the evidence shows the subject's transaction meets the key fundamental elements of an arm's-length transaction. The buyer and seller were unrelated parties; neither party was under duress to buy or sell; and the subject property was exposed to the open market for more than a reasonable amount of time. Based on this analysis, the Board finds the best evidence of the subject's fair market is its November 2005 arm's-length sale price of \$262,500, which is less

than the subject's estimated market value of \$290,918 as reflected by its assessment.

The Board further finds the appraisal submitted by the board of review, though relevant, does not overcome the subject's arm's-length sale price.

Based on this analysis, the Property Tax Appeal Board finds the appellants have demonstrated the subject property is overvalued by a preponderance of the evidence. Therefore, the Board finds the subject's assessment as established by the board of review is incorrect and a reduction is warranted. Since fair market value has been established, the three-year median level of assessment for Putnam County of 33.40% shall apply.

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.

Donald R. Cuit

Chairman

K. L. Fern

Member

Frank A. Huff

Member

Mario Morris

Member

J. R.

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: February 22, 2013

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.