



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

APPELLANT: Michael Peterson  
DOCKET NO.: 07-23304.001-R-1  
PARCEL NO.: 05-17-407-026-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Michael Peterson, the appellant, by attorney Eugene P. Griffin of Eugene L. Griffin & Associates, Ltd. 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:** \$ 30,245  
**IMPR.:** \$ 80,195  
**TOTAL:** \$ 110,440

Subject only to the State multiplier as applicable.

**ANALYSIS**

The subject property is improved with a two-story dwelling of frame construction containing 3,432 square feet of living area. The dwelling is 18 years old. Features of the home include a full finished basement, central air conditioning, and a two-car attached garage. The dwelling is located in Winnetka, New Trier Township, Cook County.

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 \$1,100,000 was estimated for the subject property as of January 1, 2007. The appraiser developed the sales comparison approach in order to estimate the market value of the subject property. The appraiser considered five comparable properties in Winnetka that sold from March to August 2007 for prices that ranged from \$953,500 to \$1,240,000. The comparable properties are improved with two-story dwellings that range in age from two to 112 years old and in size from 2,764 to 3,637 square feet of living area. The appraiser came to the conclusion that the comparable sales adequately reflected the subject property and that the market value of the subject property should fall in the middle of the range of sale prices, namely \$1,100,000. In the brief, the

appellant's counsel requested that the 10% level of assessments on class 2 property in Cook County be applied to the appraiser's finding of market value and that the subject's total assessment be reduced to \$110,000.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" wherein the subject's final assessment of \$176,000 was disclosed. The subject's assessment reflects a market value of \$1,752,988 or \$549.24 per square foot of living area, land included, using the 2007 three-year median level of assessments for Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance Class 2 property of 10.04% as determined by the Illinois Department of Revenue. (86 Ill.Admin.Code 1910.59(c)(2)).

The board of review presented descriptions and assessment information on four comparable properties consisting of two-story frame dwellings that range in age from two to nineteen years old. The comparables have the same assigned neighborhood and classification codes as the subject. The dwellings range in size from 2,427 to 3,919 square feet of living area, and one is described as being deluxe quality. Three dwellings have full finished basements, and one has a full unfinished basement. Each comparable has central air conditioning, one to three fireplaces, and a two-car garage. These properties have improvement assessments ranging from \$41.00 to \$47.54 per square foot of living area. As part of its evidence, the board of review also disclosed that the subject sold in July 2004 for \$1,885,000 or for \$530.84 per square foot of living area, land included; comparable one sold in September 2006 for \$1,275,000 or for \$525.34 per square foot of living area, land included; and comparable four sold in November 2004 for \$700,000 or for \$178.62 per square foot of living area, land included. Based on this evidence, the board of review requested confirmation of the subject's assessment.

After reviewing the record and considering the evidence, the Board finds it has jurisdiction over the parties and the subject matter of the appeal. The Board further finds the evidence in the record supports a reduction in the subject's assessment.

The appellant contends 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 (3<sup>rd</sup> Dist. 2002). Proof of market value may consist of an appraisal of the subject property, a recent sale of the subject property or comparable sales. (86 Ill.Admin.Code 1910.65(c)). After an analysis of the evidence in the record, the Board finds a reduction in the subject's assessment is warranted.

The Board finds the appellant's appraisal report is the best evidence of the subject's market value as of the January 1, 2007 assessment date. The appraiser estimated a market value of

\$1,100,000 for the subject property as of January 1, 2007. The subject's assessment reflects a market value of \$1,752,988 and is in excess of the market value estimate contained in the appraisal report. The board of review submitted four equity comparables but did not sufficiently refute the overvaluation argument. Although the board of review provided sale prices for the subject and two of their equity comparables, the sale of the subject and comparable #4 occurred in 2004, which was not proximate in time to January 1, 2007 assessment date. The board of review's comparable #1 sold in October 2006 for \$1,275,000 or for \$525.34 per square foot of living area. The subject's assessment reflects a market value of \$549.24 per square foot of living area, which is in excess of comparable #1's per square foot market value. Based on this record, the Board finds the subject has a market value of \$1,100,000 as of January 1, 2007, and the 2007 three-year median level of assessments for Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance Class 2 property of 10.04% as determined by the Illinois Department of Revenue shall apply. (86 Ill.Admin.Code 1910.59(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: May 20, 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.