



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

APPELLANT: Erich Muellner  
DOCKET NO.: 07-23384.001-C-1  
PARCEL NO.: 09-35-103-008-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Erich Muellner, the appellant, by attorney Michael Griffin 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: \$ 17,926  
IMPR: \$ 26,951  
TOTAL: \$ 44,877**

Subject only to the State multiplier as applicable.

**ANALYSIS**

The subject has 5,550 square feet of land that is improved with a 39 year old, one-story, masonry, commercial retail building. The subject's improvement size is 1,250 square feet of building area, which equates to an improvement assessment of \$21.56 per square foot of building area, after correcting the appellant's calculations. The appellant, via counsel, argued that there was unequal treatment in the assessment process of the subject's improvement as the basis of this appeal.

In support of the equity argument, the appellant submitted descriptive and assessment information for three properties suggested as comparable to the subject. The comparables are described as one-story, masonry, commercial office or restaurant buildings. Additionally, the comparables range: in age from 52 to 94 years; in size from 1,249 to 2,565 square feet of building area; and in improvement assessments from \$8.76 to \$28.59 per square foot of building area, after correcting the appellant's calculations. The comparables also have various amenities. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested a reduction in the subject's improvement assessment.

The Cook County Board of Review submitted it "Board of Review-Notes on Appeal," wherein the subject's final assessment of \$44,877 was disclosed. In support of the subject's

assessment, the board of review submitted a property record card for the subject, and raw sales data for four commercial office or commercial retail buildings located within one mile of the subject. The sales data was collected from the CoStar Comps service, and the CoStar Comps sheets state that the research was licensed to the Cook County Assessor's Office. However, the board of review included a memorandum which states that the submission of these comparables is not intended to be an appraisal or an estimate of value, and should not be construed as such. The memorandum further states that the information provided was collected from various sources, and was assumed to be factual, accurate, and reliable; but that the information had not been verified, and that the board of review did not warrant its accuracy.

The comparables are described as one-story, masonry, commercial office or commercial retail buildings. Additionally, the comparables are from 31 to 43 years old, and have from 1,046 to 4,444 square feet of building area. The comparables sold between November 2002 and September 2006 for \$462,000 to \$650,000, or \$106.89 to \$441.68 per square foot of building area, including land. 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 (the "Board") finds that it has jurisdiction over the parties and the subject matter of this appeal.

The appellant contends unequal treatment in the subject's improvement assessment as the basis of this 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. Walsh v. Prop. Tax Appeal Bd., 181 Ill. 2d 228, 234 (1998) (citing Kankakee Cnty. Bd. of Review v. Prop. Tax Appeal Bd., 131 Ill. 2d 1 (1989)); 86 Ill. Admin. Code § 1910.63(e). To succeed in an appeal based on lack of uniformity, the appellant must submit documentation "showing the similarity, proximity and lack of distinguishing characteristics of the assessment comparables to the subject property." Cook Cnty. Bd. of Review v. Prop. Tax Appeal Bd., 403 Ill. App. 3d 139, 145 (1st Dist. 2010); 86 Ill. Admin. Code § 1910.65(b). "[T]he critical consideration is not the number of allegedly similar properties, but whether they are in fact 'comparable' to the subject property." Cook Cnty. Bd. of Review v. Prop. Tax Appeal Bd., 403 Ill. App. 3d at 145 (citing DuPage Cnty. Bd. of Review v. Prop. Tax Appeal Bd., 284 Ill. App. 3d 649, 654-55 (2d Dist. 1996)). After an analysis of the assessment data, the Board finds that the appellant has not met this burden.

The Board finds that none of the comparables submitted by the parties were similar to the subject in location as the comparables are located in Des Plaines while the subject is located in Park Ridge. Moreover, one of the three equity comparables provided by the appellant is assessed at a higher

value per square foot than that of the subject property. As such, the appellant has not met the burden of clear and convincing evidence. Furthermore, the Board gives little weight to the board of review's evidence as the data is merely raw sales data that has not been adjusted for market conditions including time, location, age, size, land to building ratio, parking, zoning and other related factors and fails to address the appellant's equity argument.

After considering the evidence submitted, the Board finds the subject's per square foot improvement assessment is supported and a reduction in the subject's assessment 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.

*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: September 20, 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.