



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

APPELLANT: J. Thomas Johnson  
DOCKET NO.: 07-23926.001-R-1  
PARCEL NO.: 09-35-305-044-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are J. Thomas Johnson, the appellant(s), by attorney Paul J. Reilly 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: \$10,044  
IMPR.: \$64,252  
TOTAL: \$74,296**

Subject only to the State multiplier as applicable.

**ANALYSIS**

The subject property has 6,975 square feet of land, which is improved with a 24 year old, two-story, frame, single-family dwelling containing 3,413 square feet of living area. The subject includes two and one-half baths, air conditioning, a two-car garage, one fireplace, and a partial finished basement. The appellant argued that the market value of the subject property was not accurately reflected in its assessed value.

In support of the market value argument, the appellant submitted an appraisal undertaken by Garrat Van Wagenen of Vantage Appraisal Corp., in Northbrook, Illinois. The report states that Van Wagenen is licensed as a State of Illinois certified residential real estate appraiser. The appraiser stated that the subject has an estimated market value of \$740,000 as of January 21, 2008. The appraisal report utilized the sales comparison approach to value to estimate the market value for the subject property. The appraisal states that Van Wagenen personally inspected the property, and that the subject's highest and best use as improved is its present use.

Under the sales comparison approach, the appraiser analyzed the sales of three comparables which are described as two-story, single-family dwellings that range in age from 4 to 44 years old, and in size from 2,748 to 3,400 square feet of living area.

These comparables have from two and one-half to four baths, and either a two-car or a three-car garage. Additionally, all of the comparables have air conditioning, and a full finished basement. The sales comparables sold in June 2007 for prices ranging from \$690,000 to \$875,000, or from \$250.00 to \$318.41 per square foot of living area, including land. The appraiser adjusted each of the comparables for pertinent factors. Based on the similarities and differences of the comparables when compared to the subject, the appraiser estimated a value for the subject under the sales comparison approach of \$740,000.

The cost approach to value and the income approach to value were not developed for the appraisal. The appraiser stated that the sales comparison approach to value is considered the most reliable, and therefore, is given the most weight when appraising a single-family dwelling. Thus, the appraiser concluded that the subject's appraised value was \$740,000 as of January 21, 2008. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested a reduction in the subject's assessment.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" wherein the subject's final assessment of \$85,152 was disclosed. The subject's final assessment reflects a fair market value of \$848,127 when the 2007 Illinois Department of Revenue three-year median level of assessment for Class 2 properties of 10.04% is applied. In support of the subject's assessment, the board of review presented descriptions and assessment information on three suggested comparables described as two-story, frame, single-family dwellings that range in age from 18 to 59 years old, and in size from 2,908 to 3,455 square feet of living area. The dwellings have from one and one-half to three baths, and either a full unfinished basement, a full basement with a formal recreation room, or a partial unfinished basement. Additionally, all of the properties have a two-car garage, air conditioning, and a fireplace. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$22.57 to \$24.45 per square foot of living area.

The board of review also submitted a list of sales of properties located within the subject's neighborhood. This list included the PIN, deed number, the date of the sale, and the sale price for twenty properties. No further information was provided regarding these properties. Based on this evidence, the board 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. When overvaluation is claimed the appellant has the burden of proving the value of the property by a preponderance of the evidence. Cook Cnty. Bd. of Review v. Prop. Tax Appeal Bd., 339 Ill. App. 3d 529, 545 (1st Dist. 2002); National City Bank of Michigan/Illinois v. Prop. Tax Appeal Bd., 331 Ill. App. 3d 1038, 1042 (3d Dist. 2002) (citing Winnebago Cnty. Bd. of Review v. Prop. Tax Appeal Bd., 313 Ill. App. 3d 179 (2d Dist. 2000)); 86 Ill. Admin. Code § 1910.63(e). 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. Calumet Transfer, LLC v. Prop. Tax Appeal Bd., 401 Ill. App. 3d 652, 655 (1st Dist. 2010); 86 Ill. Admin. Code § 1910.65(c). Having considered the evidence presented, the Board concludes that the evidence indicates a reduction is warranted.

In determining the fair market value of the subject property, the Board finds the best evidence to be the appellant's appraisal. The appellant's appraiser utilized the sales comparison approach to value in determining the subject's market value. The Board finds this appraisal to be persuasive because the appraiser has experience in appraising, personally inspected the subject property and reviewed the property's history, and used similar properties in the sales comparison approach while providing adjustments that were necessary. The Board gives little weight to the board of review's comparables as the information provided was unadjusted raw sales data.

Therefore, the Board finds the subject had a market value of \$740,000 for the 2007 assessment year. Since the market value of this parcel has been established, the 2007 Illinois Department of Revenue three-year median level of assessment for Class 2 property of 10.04% will apply. In applying this level of assessment to the subject, the total assessed value is \$74,296 while the subject's current total assessed value is above this amount. Therefore, the Board finds that a reduction is 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: December 21, 2012

*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.