



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

APPELLANT: Bruce Buzil
DOCKET NO.: 07-24205.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 05-06-305-007-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Bruce Buzil, the appellant, by attorney Mitchell L. Klein, of Schiller Klein PC 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: \$31,304
IMPR: \$97,101
TOTAL: \$128,405

Subject only to the State multiplier as applicable.

ANALYSIS

The subject property is improved with a 2-story dwelling of frame and masonry construction containing 3,384 square feet of living area. The dwelling is 83 years old. Features of the home include a full, finished basement¹, 2 fireplaces and a 2-car garage.

The appellant's appeal is based on unequal treatment in the assessment process. The appellant submitted information on three comparable properties described as 2-story stucco, masonry, or frame and masonry dwellings that range in age from 77 to 86 years old. The comparable dwellings range in size from 3,348 to 3,469 square feet of living area. All comparables feature full or partial basements, one of which is finished. All have fireplaces and 2-car garages. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$27.68 to \$29.88 per square foot of living area. The subject's improvement assessment is \$39.45 per square foot of

¹ The appellant's analysis grid shows the subject's basement is partial and unfinished. The appellant indicated in Section 3 of their appeal that the basement is full but appellant did not mark finished or unfinished. The board of review attached the property details sheet indicating the subject has a full, finished basement.

living area². Based on this evidence, the appellant requested a reduction in the subject's improvement assessment.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" wherein the subject's final assessment was disclosed. The board of review presented descriptions and assessment information on four comparable properties³ consisting of 2-story frame and masonry dwellings that range in age from 66 to 83 years old. The dwellings range in size from 2,310 to 3,500 square feet of living area. All comparables feature full or partial basements, one of which is finished. All have 1 or 2 fireplaces and 1 or 2-car garages. Three have central air conditioning. These properties have improvement assessments ranging from \$27.68 to \$32.50 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence, the board of review requested confirmation of the subject's assessment.

In rebuttal the appellant points out the similarities and differences in the appellant's and board of review's comparables to the subject.

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 appellant contends unequal treatment in the subject's improvement assessment as the basis of the 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. Kankakee County Board of Review v. Property Tax Appeal Board, 131 Ill.2d 1 (1989). After an analysis of the assessment data, the Board finds the appellant has met this burden.

The board of review lowered the assessment by the amount of the home improvement exemption. An exemption is just that - an exemption - and not a reduction in the assessment of the property. The Board finds the improvement assessment for the subject must include the recent addition to the property. The Board finds all three comparables submitted by the appellant and comparables #1, #2 and #4 submitted by the board of review were most similar to the subject in size, style, age and features. Due to their similarities to the subject, these comparables received the most weight in the Board's analysis. These comparables had improvement assessments that ranged from \$27.68 to \$30.97 per square foot of living area. The subject's improvement assessment of \$39.45 per square foot of living area is above the range established by the most similar comparables.

² The board of review deducted the home improvement exemption from the improvement assessment, resulting in an improvement assessment of \$27.63 per square foot of living area.

³ The board of review's comparable #1 is the same property as appellant's comparable #1.

After considering adjustments and the differences in both parties' comparables when compared to the subject, the Board finds the subject's improvement assessment is not equitable and a reduction in the subject's assessment 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.

Ronald R. Cuit

Chairman

K. L. Fern

Member

Frank A. Huff

Member

Mario M. Louie

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: April 22, 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.