



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

APPELLANT: Mary Jo Peterson
DOCKET NO.: 07-25772.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 09-35-306-013-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Mary Jo Peterson, the appellant, by attorney Kevin B. Hynes of O'Keefe Lyons & Hynes, LLC, 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: \$14,273
IMPR: \$104,009
TOTAL: \$118,282

Subject only to the State multiplier as applicable.

ANALYSIS

The subject property is improved with a two-story dwelling of frame and masonry construction containing 4,282 square feet of living area. The dwelling is approximately one-year old. Features of the home include a full unfinished basement, central air conditioning, three fireplaces and a 2.5-car attached garage. The property has an 11,151 square foot site and is located in Park Ridge, Maine Township, Cook County. The subject property is classified as a class 2-08 residential property under the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance (hereafter "Ordinance"). Class 2-08 property has an Ordinance level of assessment of 16% for the 2007 tax year.

The appellant is challenging the assessment for the 2007 tax year on the basis of assessment equity and a contention of law. In support of the assessment equity argument the appellant submitted information on seven comparable properties described as being improved with two-story dwellings of masonry construction that ranged in size from 3,906 to 4,234 square feet of living area. The dwellings ranged in age from 7 to 19 years

old. Each property has the same classification code as the subject property and they are located from .42 to 1.40 miles from the subject property. Each of the comparables has a full or partial basement with two having recreation rooms. Each property also has central air conditioning and a two-car or a three-car garage. Six comparables also have either one or two fireplaces. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$87,255 to \$108,762 or from \$21.94 to \$30.82 per square foot of living area. The subject's improvement assessment is \$104,009 or \$24.29 per square foot of living area.

In support of the contention of law, counsel submitted a copy of the brief filed with the Cook County Board of Review in which he asserted the property is valueless because of faulty construction. Counsel asserted that in May 2007 the appellant filed a complaint with the American Arbitration Association against the builder in which 100 items of defective workmanship were alleged. The dollar amount of the claim was in excess of \$475,000. Attached to the brief was Exhibit #1, the Demand for Arbitration, which contained the allegations of defective workmanship and copies of the Fixed Sum Contract for the construction of the home entered in May 2005 and a Change Order dated July 6, 2005.¹ Counsel contends the assessor believes the house is worth \$900,000, however, if the appellant attempted to sell the property would require disclosure of water damage and the ongoing litigation. As a result, according to counsel, a reasonably prudent buyer would require a substantial concession. The appellant contends the only measure of damages is the appellant's plea of \$475,000, the cost to restore the house, which can be deducted from the assessor's estimate of market value to arrive at an estimate value of \$400,000 and an assessment of \$64,000 when applying the Ordinance level of assessment for class 2 property of 16%.

Based on this evidence, the appellant requested a reduction in the subject's assessment to \$64,000.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" wherein the subject's final assessment totaling \$118,282 was disclosed. The subject property has a land assessment of \$14,273 and an improvement assessment of \$104,009 or \$24.29 per square foot of living area. The subject's property characteristic printout indicated the subject improvement was valued at \$650,062.

¹ In paragraph 5 of Count I the appellant asserted that after change orders the cost to construct the residence was \$1,056,111.00.

In support of the assessment the board of review presented descriptions and assessment information on two comparable properties improved with two-story dwellings of frame and masonry construction that had 2,532 and 4,022 square feet of living area.² The dwellings were 1 and 114 years old. Each comparable had a full basement with one being finished. One comparable had central air conditioning, one comparable had two fireplaces and each comparable had either a one-car or two-car garage. These properties have improvement assessments of \$71,349 and \$60,734 or \$17.74 and \$23.99 per square foot of living area, respectively. 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 not warranted.

The appellant argued in part 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 assessments by clear and convincing evidence. Kankakee County Board of Review v. Property Tax Appeal Board, 131 Ill.2d 1 (1989); 86 Ill.Admin.Code 1910.63(e). The evidence must demonstrate a consistent pattern of assessment inequities within the assessment jurisdiction. After an analysis of the assessment data, the Board finds the appellant has not met this burden.

The Board finds the appellant's comparables and board of review comparable #1 are the most similar to the subject in size, style, exterior construction and features. Only board of review comparable #1 was similar to the subject in age while the appellant's comparables were from 6 to 18 years older than the subject dwelling. These comparables had improvement assessments that ranged from \$17.74 to \$30.82 per square foot of living area. The subject's improvement assessment of \$24.29 per square foot of living area falls within the range established by the best comparables in this record. Considering the subject's superior age with respect to each of the appellant's comparables, the Board finds the appellant did not demonstrate with clear and convincing evidence that the subject's improvement assessment was inequitable and a reduction in the subject's assessment is not justified on this basis.

² Board of review comparable #1 and comparable #3 displayed on the assessment grid analysis were the same property.

The appellant also argued that the assessment on the subject property was excessive in light of purported faulty construction. In support of the defective construction appellant submitted a copy of the complaint filed with the American Arbitration Association against the builder in which 100 items of defective workmanship were alleged. The dollar amount of the appellant's claim was in excess of \$475,000. The Board finds this evidence does not demonstrate the subject's assessment is excessive considering the alleged defective construction. In order for the appellant to demonstrate the subject's assessment is excessive in light of the dwelling's faulty construction market data in the form of an appraisal valuing the subject property in its current state of repair, considering the home's condition, is required. The Board finds that mere allegations and a claim for damages are not sufficient to establish the assessment of the subject property is excessive.

Furthermore, in reviewing the Demand for Arbitration filed with the American Arbitration Association the taxpayer alleged in Count I, paragraph 5, that the contract amount to construct the home after the change orders totaled \$1,056,011. Since the construction of the dwelling occurred in 2005 and 2006, the Board finds that the construction costs are indicative of the value of home as of the assessment date at issue. The evidence further disclosed that the subject dwelling is valued for assessment purposes at \$650,062, which is \$405,949 less than the construction costs. The Board finds this evidence tends to demonstrate some consideration has been given to the dwelling's workmanship when the assessment was established. Based on this record the Board finds no reduction in the subject's assessment is justified based on the appellant's claim of faulty construction.

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

Tracy 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: January 24, 2014

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.