



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

APPELLANT: Kim Murlas
DOCKET NO.: 07-26406.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 05-30-201-064-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Kim Murlas, the appellant, by attorney James E. Doherty, of Thomas M. Tully & Associates 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: \$ 72,601
IMPR.: \$ 63,356
TOTAL: \$ 135,957

Subject only to the State multiplier as applicable.

ANALYSIS

The subject property is improved with a one and one-half story dwelling of masonry construction. The dwelling is 45 years old and contains 3,249 square feet of living area. Features of the home include a partial unfinished basement, central air conditioning, two fireplaces, and a three-car attached garage. The subject is classified as a class 2-04 residential property under the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance and is located in Northfield, New Trier Township, Cook County.¹

The appellant's appeal is based on unequal treatment in the assessment process and contention of law. The appellant submitted information on four suggested comparable properties described as one-story dwellings of masonry or frame and masonry construction. The comparable properties have the same assigned classification and neighborhood codes as the subject, and three of the comparables are located on the same tax block as the subject. The comparable dwellings are from 46 to 53 years old and contain from 3,055 to 5,123 square feet of living area. One dwelling has a slab foundation, and three dwellings have partial basements, two of which are finished. Each comparable has a garage, one or two fireplaces, and central air conditioning. The

¹ Class 2-04 is a one story residence, any age, 1,801 square feet and over.

comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$45,036 to \$73,771 or from \$12.00 to \$16.31 per square foot of living area. The subject's improvement assessment is \$63,356 or \$19.50 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested that the subject's improvement assessment be reduced to \$51,984 or \$16.00 per square foot of living area.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" wherein the subject's final assessment of \$135,957 was disclosed. The board of review presented descriptions and assessment information on four suggested comparable properties consisting of one and one-half story dwellings of masonry construction. The comparable properties have the same assigned neighborhood and classification codes as the subject, and one is said to be located one-quarter mile from the subject. The dwellings are from 52 to 78 years old and contain from 2,034 to 3,356 square feet of living area. One comparable is described as being of deluxe quality, while the subject and the other comparables are described as being of average quality. One dwelling has a crawl-space foundation, and three dwellings have full basements, two of which are finished. Each comparable has a garage and one or two fireplaces, and two comparables have central air conditioning. These properties have improvement assessments ranging from \$50,890 to \$72,784 or from \$20.32 to \$25.02 per square foot of living area. 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 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 not met this burden.

Both parties presented assessment data on a total of eight suggested comparables. None of the comparables submitted were similar to the subject in all respects. Although the appellant's comparables had the same classification code as the subject, the appellant's comparables were one-story in design, not one and one-half story like the subject. More importantly, the Board finds that the appellant's comparable #2 had 58% more living area than the subject, and comparables #1 and #3 had 16% and 15% more living area, respectively. As a result, the appellant's comparables #1 through #3 received reduced weight in the Board's analysis. The board of review's comparables #2 and #4 had 15% and 37% less living area than the subject, respectively, and also received reduced weight.

The Board finds the appellant's comparable #4 and the board of review's comparables #1 and #2 were more similar to the subject in size. Moreover, the appellant's comparable #4 was most similar to the subject in age, and the board of review's comparable #1 was most similar in size. Based on photographic evidence provided by the board of review, comparable #1 appears to be very similar in design to the subject. Despite some differences, these three comparables received the most weight in the Board's analysis. These comparables had improvement assessments that ranged from \$49,827 to \$72,784 or from \$16.31 to \$23.17 per square foot of living area. The subject's improvement assessment of \$63,356 or \$19.50 per square foot of living area falls within the range established by the most similar comparables. After considering adjustments and the differences in both parties' comparables when compared to the subject, the Board finds the subject's improvement assessment is equitable and a reduction in the subject's assessment is not warranted.

The constitutional provision for uniformity of taxation and valuation does not require mathematical equality. The requirement is satisfied if the intent is evident to adjust the taxation burden with a reasonable degree of uniformity and if such is the effect of the statute enacted by the General Assembly establishing the method of assessing real property in its general operation. A practical uniformity, rather than an absolute one, is the test. Apex Motor Fuel Co. v. Barrett, 20 Ill. 2d 395 (1960). Although the comparables presented by the appellant disclosed that properties located in the same area are not assessed at identical levels, all that the constitution requires is a practical uniformity which appears to exist on the basis of the evidence. For the foregoing reasons, the Board finds that the appellant has not proven by clear and convincing evidence that the subject property is inequitably assessed. Therefore, the Property Tax Appeal Board finds that the subject's assessment as established by the board of review is correct and no 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: June 22, 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.