



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

APPELLANT: Timber Loft Partners
DOCKET NO.: 07-30947.001-C-1
PARCEL NO.: 17-09-315-033-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Timber Loft Partners, the appellant, by attorney Edwin M. Wittenstein, of Worssek & Vihon 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: \$ 10,278
IMPR.: \$ 344,389
TOTAL: \$ 354,667

Subject only to the State multiplier as applicable.

ANALYSIS

The subject property consists of office space located in the west half of the fourth floor of a vertical division of a seven story commercial office building. The subject property is approximately 80 years old; however, it was recently renovated. The subject is situated on a 16,897 square foot site. The subject's improvement size is 8,400 square feet of building area, and its total assessment is \$354,667. This assessment yields a fair market value of \$933,334, or \$111.11 per square foot of building area (including land), after applying the 38% assessment level for commercial properties under the 2007 Cook County Classification of Real Property Ordinance. The appellant, via counsel, argued that the fair market value of the subject property was not accurately reflected in its assessed value as the basis of this appeal.

In support of the market value argument, the appellant submitted evidence showing that the subject sold in August 2003 for \$875,000. This evidence included a settlement statement which indicated the parties used a real estate broker. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested a reduction in the subject's assessment.

The Cook County Board of Review submitted its "Board of Review-Notes on Appeal," wherein the subject's final assessment of \$354,667 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 six commercial office 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 commercial office buildings. Additionally, the comparables have from 7,500 to 8,526 square feet of building area. The comparables sold between May 2005 and April 2007 for \$1,050,000 to \$1,955,000, or \$131.25 to \$229.30 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.

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 finds that the evidence indicates a reduction is not warranted.

The Board finds the sale of the subject in August 2003 is too distant in time from the January 1, 2007 lien date to be considered a recent sale. As the sale of the subject was more than three years prior to the January 1, 2007 lien date, the Board grants this evidence diminished weight and finds the appellant did not meet the burden of proving by a preponderance of the evidence that the subject is overvalued. In addition, the subject's assessment reflects a market value of \$111.11 per square foot of building area which is below the price per square

foot of the board of review's comparable sales which ranged from \$131.25 to \$229.30 per square foot of building area.

In conclusion, the Property Tax Appeal Board finds the appellant has failed to establish by a preponderance of the evidence that the subject was overvalued. Therefore, the Board finds 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: July 19, 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.