



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

APPELLANT: Ahmad Falaneh
DOCKET NO.: 08-20744.001-C-1
PARCEL NO.: 19-13-403-009-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Ahmad Falaneh, the appellant, by attorney Richard J. Caldarazzo, of Mar Cal Law, P.C. 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: \$ 15,206
IMPR: \$ 36,094
TOTAL: \$ 51,300**

Subject only to the State multiplier as applicable.

ANALYSIS

The subject contains 7,276 square feet of land and is improved with a 49 year-old, one-story, masonry, commercial retail building. The subject's improvement size is 2,756 square feet of building area, and its total assessment is \$68,399. This assessment yields a fair market value of \$179,997, or \$65.31 per square foot of building area (including land), after applying the 38% assessment level for commercial properties under the 2008 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 an appraisal for the subject property with an effective date of January 1, 2009. The appraisal is signed by Arthur J Murphy, MAI and Brian P. Johnson. The appraisal does not list any credentials for Mr. Johnson. The appraiser estimated a fair market value for the subject of \$135,000 based on the cost, income, and sales comparison approaches to value. The appraisal indicates Mr. Johnson inspected the subject. 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 \$68,399 was disclosed. In support of the subject's assessment, the board of review submitted a copy of the subject's deed. The deed indicates the subject sold in June 2004 for \$180,000. The board of review also submitted a property record card for the subject, and raw sales data for six commercial retail buildings located within eight miles 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 one-story, masonry, commercial retail buildings. They range in age from 48 to 60 years old, and contain from 2,013 to 2,950 square feet of building area. The comparables sold between September 2007 and November 2009 for \$159,000 to \$865,000, or \$63.60 to \$422.26 per square foot of building area, including land. Based on this evidence, the board of review requested confirmation of the subject's assessment.

At hearing, the board of review's representative argued that the subject's 2004 purchase price was the best indicator of the subject's market value. The board of review's representative indicated that the appellant's appraisal has a valuation date of January 1, 2009. The appellant's attorney argued that the 2009 appraisal was the best indicator of the subject's market value.

After reviewing the record, considering the evidence, and hearing the testimony, 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 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 cost, income, and sales comparison approaches to value in determining the subject's market value. The Board finds this appraisal persuasive because the appraiser has experience in appraising, 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 evidence as it was raw sales data that did not make any adjustments for age, exterior construction, improvement size, improvement type, location, or market conditions. The Board also gives little weight to the subject's June 2004 purchase price. This purchase occurred three and one-half years prior to the January 1, 2008 valuation date. As such, the purchase is too distant in time to accurately reflect the subject's market value on January 1, 2008.

Therefore, the Board finds the subject had a market value of \$135,000 for the 2008 assessment year. Since the market value of this parcel has been established, the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance as in effect for tax year 2008 shall apply. 86 Ill. Admin. Code § 1910.50(c)(3). The subject is a commercial property, and, therefore, the applicable assessment level is 38% of the subject's fair market value, which equates to \$51,300. The subject's current total assessed value is above this amount, and, thus, 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: August 23, 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.