



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

APPELLANT: Boris Berns
DOCKET NO.: 08-27103.001-C-1
PARCEL NO.: 13-24-205-028-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Boris Berns, the appellant(s), by attorney Frederick F. Richards III, of Thompson Coburn LLP 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: \$ 51,892
IMPR: \$ 52,607
TOTAL: \$ 104,499

Subject only to the State multiplier as applicable.

ANALYSIS

The subject has 9,104 square feet of land, which is improved with an 81 year old, one-story, masonry, commercial building. The subject's improvement size is 2,118 square feet of building area, which equates to an improvement assessment of \$24.84 per square foot of building area. The appellant, via counsel, argued that there was unequal treatment in the assessment process of the subject's improvement as the basis of this appeal.

In support of the equity argument, the appellant submitted descriptive and assessment information for four properties suggested as comparable to the subject. The comparables are described as one-story or multi-story, masonry, commercial buildings. Additionally, the comparables range: in age from 16 to 83 years; in size from 2,996 to 11,745 square feet of building area; and in improvement assessments from \$2.81 to \$15.57 per square foot of building area. Based on this evidence,

the appellant requested a reduction in the subject's improvement assessment.

The Cook County Board of Review submitted its "Board of Review-Notes on Appeal," wherein the subject's final assessment of \$104,499 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 five commercial buildings located within five 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, and multi-story, masonry, commercial buildings. Additionally, the comparables are from 27 to 82 years old, and have from 1,131 to 3,500 square feet of building area. The comparables sold between March 2004 and June 2010 for \$525,000 to \$1,200,000, or \$304.19 to \$464.19 per square foot of building area, including land. Based on this evidence, the board of review requested confirmation of the subject's assessment.

In written rebuttal, the appellant's attorney discussed various reasons why the Board should not give weight to the board of review's sales comparables.

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.

The appellant contends unequal treatment in the subject's improvement assessment as the basis of this 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. Walsh v. Prop. Tax Appeal Bd., 181 Ill. 2d 228, 234 (1998) (citing Kankakee Cnty. Bd. of Review v. Prop. Tax Appeal Bd., 131 Ill. 2d 1 (1989)); 86 Ill. Admin. Code § 1910.63(e). To succeed in an appeal based on lack of uniformity, the appellant must submit documentation

"showing the similarity, proximity and lack of distinguishing characteristics of the assessment comparables to the subject property." Cook Cnty. Bd. of Review v. Prop. Tax Appeal Bd., 403 Ill. App. 3d 139, 145 (1st Dist. 2010); 86 Ill. Admin. Code § 1910.65(b). "[T]he critical consideration is not the number of allegedly similar properties, but whether they are in fact 'comparable' to the subject property." Cook Cnty. Bd. of Review v. Prop. Tax Appeal Bd., 403 Ill. App. 3d at 145 (citing DuPage Cnty. Bd. of Review v. Prop. Tax Appeal Bd., 284 Ill. App. 3d 649, 654-55 (2d Dist. 1996)). After an analysis of the assessment data, the Board finds that the appellant has not met this burden.

The Board finds that Comparable #2 submitted by the appellant was most similar to the subject in location, size, style, and exterior construction. The appellant's remaining comparables are all more than three times larger than the subject as they range in size from 7,992 to 11,745 square feet of building area. As such, the Board finds that the appellant has not met the burden of clear and convincing evidence, as there is no range of equity comparables with which to compare the subject. Therefore, the Board finds the subject's improvement assessment is equitable and a reduction in the subject's assessment is not 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. Crit

Chairman

K. L. Fan

Member

Richard A. Huff

Member

Mario M. Lino

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: March 21, 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.