



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

APPELLANT: Enrique Saldana  
DOCKET NO.: 08-27211.001-R-1  
PARCEL NO.: 15-13-416-018-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Enrique Saldana, 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: \$ 2,356  
IMPR: \$ 10,124  
TOTAL: \$ 12,480**

Subject only to the State multiplier as applicable.

**ANALYSIS**

The subject has 3,100 square feet of land that is improved with a 99 year old, one-story, frame, single-family dwelling. The subject's improvement size is 760 square feet of living area, which equates to an improvement assessment of \$27.12 per square foot of living area. Its total assessment is \$22,967, which yields a fair market value of \$239,240, or \$314.79 per square foot of living area (including land), after applying the 2008 Illinois Department of Revenue three year median level of assessment for Class 2 properties of 9.60%. The appellant, via counsel, argued that there was unequal treatment in the assessment process of the subject's improvement, and also that the fair market value of the subject property was not accurately reflected in its assessed value as the bases of this appeal.

In support of the equity argument, the appellant submitted descriptive and assessment information for three properties suggested as comparable to the subject. The comparables are described as one-story or two-story, frame or frame and masonry, single-family dwellings. Additionally, the comparables range: in age from 90 to 110 years; in size from 960 to 996 square feet of living area; and in improvement assessments from \$20.79 to \$21.83 per square foot of living area. The comparables also have various amenities.

In support of the market value argument, the appellant submitted evidence showing that the subject sold in July 2007 for \$130,000. This evidence included a settlement statement and affidavit from appellant. Furthermore, the appellant's pleadings state that the sale was not between related parties, that the subject was advertised for sale on the open market, and that 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 total assessment of \$22,967 was disclosed. In support of the subject's assessment, the board of review submitted descriptive and assessment information for four properties suggested as comparable to the subject. The comparables are described as one-story, frame, single-family dwellings. Additionally, the comparables range: in age from 83 to 100 years; in size from 714 to 777 square feet of living area; and in improvement assessments from \$27.29 to \$29.02 per square foot of living area. The comparables also have several amenities. The board of review's grid sheet also states that the subject sold in July 2007 for \$130,000, or \$171.05 per square foot of living 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 indicated that the transaction may not have been arm's length as the property was held in a land trust.

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). "[A] contemporaneous sale between parties dealing at arm's length is not only relevant to the question of fair cash market value, (citations) but would be practically conclusive on the issue of whether an assessment was at full value." People ex rel. Korzen v. Belt Ry. Co. of Chi., 37 Ill. 2d 158, 161 (1967). 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 sale of the subject in July 2007 for \$130,000. The sale is within five months of the 2008 lien date, and the appellant's pleadings support the arm's-length nature of the transaction because the buyer and seller are not related, the subject was advertised for sale on the open market, and real estate brokers were used. The closing statement, signed by unrelated parties, indicates the broker's fees, transfer tax amount, as well as the amount of the owner's policy, while the appellant's affidavit corroborates that this transaction was arm's-length. The board of review's grid sheet also confirms the sale date and price of the subject property.

Therefore, the Board finds the subject had a market value of \$130,000 for the 2008 assessment year. Since the market value of this parcel has been established, the 2008 Illinois Department of Revenue three year median level of assessment for Class 2 property of 9.60% will apply. 86 Ill. Admin. Code § 1910.50(c)(2)(A). In applying this level of assessment to the subject, the total assessed value is \$12,480, while the subject's current total assessed value is above this amount. Therefore, the Board finds that a reduction is warranted. Since the subject's market value has been determined, the Board finds that the subject is now fairly and equitably assessed.

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

*Richard A. Huff*

Member

*J. R.*

Member

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: October 18, 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.