



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

APPELLANT: Alan Leavitt  
DOCKET NO.: 08-28816.001-R-1  
PARCEL NO.: 10-20-102-012-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Alan Leavitt, the appellant, by attorney Mitchell L. Klein, of Schiller Klein PC 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:** \$8,411  
**IMPR.:** \$26,437  
**TOTAL:** \$34,848

Subject only to the State multiplier as applicable.

**ANALYSIS**

The subject property is improved with a 2-story dwelling of frame construction containing 2,112 square feet of living area. The dwelling is 94 years old. Features of the home include a full unfinished basement, central air conditioning and a 2-car garage. The property has a 6,372 square foot site and is located in Morton Grove, Niles Township, Cook County.

The appellant's appeal is based on overvaluation. In support of this argument the appellant submitted evidence disclosing the subject property was purchased on August 21, 2007<sup>1</sup> for a price of \$363,000. The appellant partially completed Section IV - Recent Sale Data of the appeal disclosing the parties to the transaction were not related and the property was sold by owner. In further support of the transaction the appellant submitted a copy of the sales contract and closing statement. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested a reduction in the subject's assessment to reflect the purchase price.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" wherein the subject's total assessment of \$49,049 was disclosed. The subject's assessment reflects a market value of

---

<sup>1</sup> The appeal form and the brief state the date of sale was August 21, 2007. The closing statement shows the date as August 2, 2007.

\$510,927 or \$241.92 per square foot of living area, including land, when applying the 2008 three year average median level of assessments for class 2 property under the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance of 9.60% as determined by the Illinois Department of Revenue.

In support of the assessment the board of review submitted information on four equity comparables but no comparable sales. The board of review did report the sale of the subject in 2007 for \$363,000 or \$171.88 per square foot of living area including land. The board of review did not refute the arm's-length nature of the sale. Based on this evidence, the board of review requested confirmation of the subject's assessment.

In rebuttal the appellant reviews the salient points of the appeal.

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 warranted.

The appellant contends the market value of the subject property is not accurately reflected in its assessed valuation. Except in counties with more than 200,000 inhabitants that classify property, property is to be valued at 33 1/3% of fair cash value. (35 ILCS 200/9-145(a)). Fair cash value is defined in the Property Tax Code as "[t]he amount for which a property can be sold in the due course of business and trade, not under duress, between a willing buyer and a willing seller." (35 ILCS 200/1-50). The Supreme Court of Illinois has construed "fair cash value" to mean what the property would bring at a voluntary sale where the owner is ready, willing, and able to sell but not compelled to do so, and the buyer is ready, willing, and able to buy but not forced to do so. Springfield Marine Bank v. Property Tax Appeal Board, 44 Ill.2d 428 (1970). A contemporaneous sale between two parties dealing at arm's length is not only relevant to the question of fair cash value but practically conclusive on the issue on whether the assessment is reflective of market value. Korzen v. Belt Railway Co. of Chicago, 37 Ill.2d 158 (1967). Furthermore, the sale of a property during the tax year in question is a relevant factor in considering the validity of the assessment. Rosewell v. 2626 Lakeview Limited Partnership, 120 Ill.App.3d 369, 375 (1<sup>st</sup> Dist. 1983). When market value is the basis of the appeal the value of the property must be proved by a preponderance of the evidence. National City Bank of Michigan/Illinois v. Illinois Property Tax Appeal Board, 331 Ill.App.3d 1038 (3<sup>rd</sup> Dist. 2002); 86 Ill.Admin.Code §1910.63(e). Proof of market value may consist of an appraisal of the subject property, a recent sale, comparable sales or construction costs. (86 Ill.Admin.Code §1910.65(c)). The Board finds the appellant met this burden of proof and a reduction in the subject's assessment is warranted.

The Board finds the best evidence of market value to be the purchase of the subject property on August 21, 2007 for a price of \$363,000. The appellant provided evidence demonstrating the sale had the elements of an arm's length transaction. The Board finds the purchase price is below the market value reflected by the assessment. The Board finds the board of review did not present any evidence to challenge the arm's length nature of the transaction or to refute the contention that the purchase price was reflective of market value. Based on this record the Board finds the subject property had a market value of \$363,000 as of January 1, 2008. Since market value has been determined the 2008 three year average median level of assessments for class 2 property under the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance of 9.60% shall apply. (86 Ill.Admin.Code §1910.50(c)(1)/(2)).

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. Cuit*

Chairman

*K. L. Fern*

Member

*Frank A. Huff*

Member

*Mario Morris*

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: June 21, 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.