



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

APPELLANT: Gino Picciola  
DOCKET NO.: 08-29876.001-R-1  
PARCEL NO.: 31-03-102-009-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Gino Picciola, the appellant, by attorney Arnold G. Siegel, of Siegel & Callahan, 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: \$ 5,697  
IMPR: \$ 3,423  
TOTAL: \$ 9,120**

Subject only to the State multiplier as applicable.

**ANALYSIS**

The subject contains 20,349 square feet of land and is improved with a 51 year old, one-story, frame, single-family dwelling. The subject's improvement size is 1,475 square feet of living area. The total assessment of the subject is \$12,821. This assessment yields a fair market value of \$133,552, or \$90.54 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 the fair market value of the subject property was not accurately reflected in its assessed value as the basis of this appeal.<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> In reviewing the file, it appears that the attorney inadvertently listed the real estate broker's name, instead of the property owner's name, as the appellant.

In support of the market value argument, the appellant's attorney submitted evidence showing that the subject sold in September 2007 for \$95,000. This evidence included a settlement statement and a warranty deed. Both of these documents indicate that Kristopher Sustek purchased the subject property in September 2007.

Additionally, the appellant submitted two affidavits. The first affidavit is signed by Kristopher Sustek and stated that he purchased the subject in September 2007 for \$95,000. He also stated that the subject was listed by Henry Jones of Jones Realty Company. Additionally, the affidavit stated that Mr. Sustek purchased the property through a, "designated real estate broker, Gino Picciola of McGinnis Real Estate Group." The second affidavit is signed by Gino Picciola. This affidavit indicated that Mr. Picciola is the real estate broker who represented the buyer, Kristopher Sustek, in the purchase of the subject property from the seller WM Specialty Mortgage LLC. Based on this evidence, the appellant's attorney 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 \$12,821 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. They range: in age from 48 to 51 years; in size from 1,426 to 1,577 square feet of living area; and in improvement assessment from \$5.64 to \$5.83 per square foot of living area. The board of review's grid sheet indicates that the subject sold in September 2007 for \$95,000, or \$64.41 per square foot of living area, including land. Based on this evidence, the board of review requested confirmation of the subject's assessment.

In written rebuttal, the appellant waived his previous oral hearing request.

After reviewing the record and considering the evidence, the Property Tax Appeal Board (the "Board") finds that it has jurisdiction over the appellant 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 September 2007 for \$95,000. Both parties submitted evidence of this sale. The sale is within three 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 and a real estate brokers was used.

Therefore, the Board finds the subject had a market value of \$95,000 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 \$9,120, while the subject's current total assessed value is above this amount. Therefore, 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.



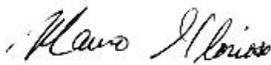
Chairman



Member



Member



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: March 21, 2014



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.