



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

APPELLANT: Kathleen J. Brown
DOCKET NO.: 09-22847.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 14-29-308-034-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Kathleen J. Brown, the appellant, by attorney Michael Griffin 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: \$ 19,046
IMPR.: \$ 67,076
TOTAL: \$ 86,122**

Subject only to the State multiplier as applicable.

ANALYSIS

The subject property is improved with a two-story dwelling of frame construction containing 2,457 square feet of living area. The dwelling is 116 years old. Features of the home include a full unfinished basement, central air conditioning, and a two-car attached garage. The subject is classified as a class 2-06 residential property under the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance and is located in Chicago, Lake View Township, Cook County.

The appellant's appeal is based on unequal treatment in the assessment process. The appellant submitted information on four comparable properties described as two-story frame dwellings that range in age from 116 to 130 years old. The comparables have the same assigned classification code as the subject. Although the appellant did not provide any information on the proximity of the comparables to the subject property, one of the comparables is located on the same street as the subject, one block away. The comparable dwellings range in size from 2,420 to 2,680 square feet of living area. Three comparables have a one or two-car garage, either attached or detached. Two dwellings have central air conditioning, and one has a fireplace. The appellant did not provide any information on the comparables' foundations. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$62,971 to \$65,217 or from \$23.70 to \$26.02 per square foot of living area.

The subject's improvement assessment is \$67,076 or \$27.30 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested that the subject's improvement assessment be reduced to \$58,225 or \$23.70 per square foot of living area.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" wherein the subject's final assessment of \$86,122 was disclosed. The board of review presented descriptions and assessment information on four comparable properties consisting of two-story frame dwellings that are either 111 or 121 years old. The comparables have the same assigned neighborhood and classification codes as the subject. One of the comparables is located on the same block as the subject, and two comparables are located one-quarter mile from the subject. The dwellings range in size from 2,216 to 2,730 square feet of living area. One of the comparables is described as having been renovated. Two comparables have partial finished basements, and two have full unfinished basements. Each comparable has a two-car detached garage, and three dwellings have central air conditioning and a fireplace. These properties have improvement assessments ranging from \$60,120 to \$74,566 or from \$26.90 to \$33.44 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence, the board of review requested confirmation of the subject's assessment.

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 not warranted.

The appellant contends unequal treatment in the subject's improvement assessment as the basis of the 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. Kankakee County Board of Review v. Property Tax Appeal Board, 131 Ill.2d 1 (1989). After an analysis of the assessment data, the Board finds the appellant has not met this burden.

Both parties presented assessment data on a total of eight equity comparables. All of the comparables submitted were two-story frame dwellings like the subject, and they were also very similar in age. However, the appellant's comparables #1 and #2 and the board of review's comparable #2 were somewhat larger in size than the subject and did not have central air conditioning like the subject. As a result, these comparables received reduced weight in the Board's analysis. The board of review's comparables #3 and #4 were somewhat smaller in size than the subject, and comparable #4 was described as having been renovated. As a result, these comparables also received reduced weight. The Board finds the appellant's comparables #3 and #4 and the board of review's comparable #1 were most similar to the subject in size. In addition, these comparables had central air conditioning like the subject. Although the appellant did not provide information on the comparables' foundations, the board of review's comparable #1 was similar to the subject in having a

basement. Due to their similarities to the subject, these comparables received the most weight in the Board's analysis. These comparables had improvement assessments that ranged from \$62,971 to \$66,951 or from \$25.97 to \$27.62 per square foot of living area. The subject's improvement assessment of \$67,076 or \$27.30 is supported by these assessments, and the subject's assessment on a per square foot basis falls within the range established by the most similar comparables. After considering adjustments and the differences in both parties' comparables when compared to the subject, the Board finds the subject's improvement assessment is equitable and a reduction in the subject's assessment is not warranted.

The constitutional provision for uniformity of taxation and valuation does not require mathematical equality. The requirement is satisfied if the intent is evident to adjust the taxation burden with a reasonable degree of uniformity and if such is the effect of the statute enacted by the General Assembly establishing the method of assessing real property in its general operation. A practical uniformity, rather than an absolute one, is the test. Apex Motor Fuel Co. v. Barrett, 20 Ill. 2d 395 (1960). Although the comparables presented by the appellant disclosed that properties located in the same area are not assessed at identical levels, all that the constitution requires is a practical uniformity which appears to exist on the basis of the evidence. For the foregoing reasons, the Board finds that the appellant has not proven by clear and convincing evidence that the subject property is inequitably assessed. Therefore, the Property Tax Appeal Board finds that the subject's assessment as established by the board of review is correct and no 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.

Ronald 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: April 20, 2012

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.