



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

APPELLANT: Seth & Colleen Levitz  
DOCKET NO.: 09-28380.001-R-1  
PARCEL NO.: 05-20-118-017-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Seth & Colleen Levitz, the appellant(s); 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:** \$13,275  
**IMPR.:** \$58,815  
**TOTAL:** \$72,090

Subject only to the State multiplier as applicable.

**ANALYSIS**

The subject property consists of a 8,850 square foot parcel of land improved with an 84-year old, frame, single-family dwelling with two and one-half baths, a full unfinished basement, one fireplace, and a two-car garage. The appellant argued that the market value of the subject property is not accurately reflected in its assessed value.

In support of this overvaluation argument, the appellant submitted a copy of the first page of the settlement statement stating that the subject sold for \$810,000 on July 3, 2009. In addition, the appellant's petition asserts the subject was on the market for one year, listed on the multiple listing service, and was not sold between related parties. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested the subject's assessment be reduced to reflect the subject's purchase price.

In addition, the appellant submitted an appraisal undertaken by Howard Edwards of Professional Appraiser Network. The report indicates Howard Edwards is a State of Illinois certified general appraiser. The appraiser indicated the subject has an estimated market value of \$795,000 as of May 28, 2009. The appraisal report utilized the cost and the sales comparison approaches to value to estimate the market value for the subject property. The appraisal report included interior and exterior photographs of the subject's improvement and comparables, location map, and

floor plan. The appraisal finds highest and best use in its present use.

The appraisal stated that the subject was improved with an 87-year old, two-story, frame, single-family dwelling containing 2,568 square feet of living area. The dwelling is in overall good condition.

Under the sales comparison approach, the appraiser analyzed the sale of five, single-family dwellings located within the subject's market. The properties contain between 1,995 and 3,340 square feet of living area. The comparables sold from December 2008 to May 2009 for prices ranging from \$745,000 to \$834,000 or from \$229.04 to \$397.14 per square foot of living area. The remaining two comparable have not sold and are being actively listed for \$739,900 and \$799,000 or \$284.23 and \$343.66 per square foot of living area, respectively. Based on the similarities and differences of the comparables when compared to the subject, the appraiser estimated the value for the subject under the sales comparison approach was \$795,000. Based upon this data, the appellant requested a reduction in the subject's market value.

Under the cost approach, the appraiser indicated that the site value is \$158,000 for the subject property. In estimating a replacement cost new for the subject, he opined a cost of \$799,706. Less depreciation resulted in a depreciation cost of the improvements at 560,706. Adding site improvements of \$0, as well as the land value resulted in a market value estimate under this approach of \$718,706.

The appraiser indicated that most weight was accorded to the sales comparison approach to value in reconciling a final value estimate of \$795,000 for the subject property. Based upon this data, the appellant requested a reduction in the subject's market value.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" wherein the subject's total assessment of \$92,190 was disclosed. This assessment reflects a market value of \$1,035,842 using the Illinois Department of Revenue's 2009 three-year median level of assessment for class 2 property of 8.90%. In support of the subject's assessment, the board of review submitted descriptions and assessment information for four properties located within the subject's neighborhood. These properties are described as two-story, frame, single-family dwellings with between two to three and one-half baths, full basements, and air conditioning for three of the properties. The properties range in size from 1,900 to 2,515 square feet of living area and in improvement assessments from \$29.71 to \$38.18 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. When overvaluation is claimed, the appellant has the burden of proving the value of the property by a preponderance of the evidence. National City Bank of Michigan/Illinois v. Illinois Property Tax Appeal Board, 331 Ill.App.3d 1038 (3d Dist. 2002; Winnbago County Board of Review v. Property Tax Appeal Board, 313 Ill.App.3d (2d Dist. 2000)). 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. 86 Ill. Admin. Code 1910.65(c). Having considered the evidence presented, the Board concludes that the evidence indicates a reduction in the subject's assessment is warranted.

In determining the fair market value of the subject property, the Board finds that best evidence is the appellants' evidence of sale on July 3, 2009 for \$810,000. The PTAB finds the subject was listed on the open market and not sold to related parties which supports the arm's length nature of the sale. Therefore, the most weight was given to this evidence. The subject's assessment reflects a market value greater than this purchase price.

Therefore, the Board finds that the subject property contained a market value of \$810,000 for the tax year 2009. Since the market value of the subject has been established, the Illinois Department of Revenue's 2009 three year median for class 2, residential property of 8.90% will apply. In applying this level of assessment to the subject, the total assessed value is \$72,090 while the subject's current total assessed value is above this amount at \$92,190. 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.

*Donald 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: May 18, 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.