FINAL ADMINISTRATIVE DECISION
ILLINOIS PROPERTY TAX APPEAL BOARD

APPELLANT: Alastair Hamish Forrest
DOCKET NO.: 09-28575.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 14-32-218-040-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Alastair Hamish Forrest, the appellant, by attorney Christopher G. Walsh, Jr. of 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:	$20,625
IMPR.:	$83,301
TOTAL:	$103,926

Subject only to the State multiplier as applicable.

ANALYSIS

The subject property is improved with a two-story dwelling of masonry construction containing 1,760 square feet of living area[1]. The dwelling is 131 years old. Features of the home include a full unfinished basement and a fireplace.

The appellant's appeal is based on unequal treatment in the assessment process. The appellant submitted information on four comparable properties located "one block" from the subject and described as two-story masonry dwellings that are 118 or 126 years old. The comparable dwellings range in size from 1,792 to 1,944 square feet of living area. Each comparable has a full unfinished basement. Three comparables have a 1-car or 2-car garage and two comparables have one or two fireplaces. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from $29.69 to

[1] The appellant indicated the subject property as 2,750 square feet of living area, however, the property characteristic sheet describes the subject property as 1,760 square feet of living area. The appellant s indicated the subject property as XX years old, however, the property characteristic sheet describes the subject property as XX years old. Provided no evidence in support of his reported dwelling size.

$32.51 per square foot of living area. The subject's improvement assessment is $47.33 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested a reduction in the subject's improvement assessment.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" wherein the subject's final assessment of $103,926 was disclosed. The board of review presented descriptions and assessment information on four comparable properties, three of which were located on the "same block" as the subject. The comparables consist of two-story masonry dwellings that are 131 or 141 years old. The dwellings have 1,760 or 1,792 square feet of living area. Each comparable has a full unfinished basement. Three comparables have a fireplace. Two comparables have a 2-car garage and one comparable has central air conditioning. These properties have improvement assessments ranging from $49.38 to $49.50 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.

The Board finds the comparables submitted by both parties were similar to the subject in location, design, exterior construction and size. These comparables had improvement assessments that ranged from $29.69 to $49.50 per square foot of living area. The subject's improvement assessment of $47.33 per square foot of living area falls within the range established by the 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 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.

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: May 18, 2012

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.