



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

APPELLANT: Donald Stone
DOCKET NO.: 09-28683.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 05-20-205-023-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Donald Stone, the appellant, by attorney Christopher G. Walsh, Jr. 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: \$11,988
IMPR: \$134,041
TOTAL: \$146,029**

Subject only to the State multiplier as applicable.

ANALYSIS

The subject property is improved with a two-story dwelling of masonry construction. The dwelling is approximately three years old and contains 3,061 square feet of living area. Features of the home include a full unfinished basement, central air conditioning, two fireplaces, and a two-car garage. The subject property is located in Winnetka, New Trier Township, Cook County.

The appellant's appeal is based on unequal treatment in the assessment process. The appellant submitted information on four suggested comparable properties described as two-story dwellings of frame or frame and masonry construction. The comparable properties have the same assigned neighborhood code as the subject. Three of the comparables are located five blocks from the subject. The comparable dwellings are from three to forty-nine years old and contain from 2,790 to 3,391 square feet of living area. One of the comparables has a concrete slab foundation; another comparable has a full finished basement; and two comparables have unfinished basements, either full or partial. Each comparable has central air conditioning, one or two fireplaces, and a garage. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$71,042 to \$98,356 or from \$20.95 to \$31.50 per square foot of living area. The subject's improvement assessment is \$134,041 or \$43.78 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested that the

subject's improvement assessment be reduced to \$84,759 or \$27.69 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 \$146,029 was disclosed. The board of review presented descriptions and assessment information on four suggested comparable properties consisting of two-story dwellings of masonry construction. The comparable properties have the same assigned neighborhood code as the subject, and three of the comparables are located one-quarter mile from the subject property. The dwellings are either one or two years old and contain from 2,600 to 3,434 square feet of living area. Each comparable has a full finished basement, central air conditioning, one or two fireplaces, and a garage. These properties have improvement assessments ranging from \$117,965 to \$146,036 or from \$42.53 to \$45.37 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 suggested comparables. The appellant's comparables #2 through #4 were significantly older than the subject; comparable #1 was somewhat larger in size than the subject; and comparable #3 had a concrete slab foundation that was dissimilar from the subject's full unfinished basement. As a result, the appellant's comparables received reduced weight in the Board's analysis. The board of review comparables #3 and #4 differed somewhat from the subject in size and also received reduced weight. The Board finds the board of review comparables #1 and #2 were very similar to the subject in all respects. Due to their similarities to the subject, these comparables received the most weight in the Board's analysis. These comparables had improvement assessments of \$129,995 and \$144,693 or \$44.52 and \$45.24 per square foot of living area, respectively. The subject's improvement assessment of \$134,041 or \$43.78 per square foot of living area falls below the improvement assessments of the best comparables in the record on a per square foot basis. 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.

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

Marko M. Louie

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: September 20, 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.