



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

APPELLANT: Stephanie Le Coure  
DOCKET NO.: 09-29920.001-R-1  
PARCEL NO.: 29-25-214-025-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Stephanie Le Coure, 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 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:** \$5,521  
**IMPR.:** \$17,619  
**TOTAL:** \$23,140

Subject only to the State multiplier as applicable.

**ANALYSIS**

The subject property is improved with a two-story dwelling of frame and masonry construction containing 2,765 square feet of living area. The dwelling is 10 years old. Features of the home include a full unfinished basement, central air conditioning and a 3-car garage.

The appellant contends overvaluation based on a recent sale of the subject property. The appellant's attorney submitted a brief in support of this argument. Counsel indicated the subject property was purchased in March 2009 for a price of \$260,000 or \$94.03 per square foot of living area, land included. To further document the sale, the appellant submitted a copy of the settlement statement as well as the Illinois Real Estate Transfer Declaration, PTAX-203, disclosing the subject property was purchased in March 2009 for a price of \$260,000. The transfer declaration indicated the subject was advertised for sale, and there was no indication the parties were related. When completing section IV of the residential appeal form, the appellant indicated that the subject property sold in settlement of a foreclosure. In the brief, counsel argued the subject had a market value of \$260,000 and the assessment should be calculated by applying the 10% level of assessment for Class 2 residential property in Cook County. Based on this record, the appellant requested the subject's assessment be reduced to \$26,000.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" wherein its final assessment of the subject totaling \$30,613 was disclosed. The subject's assessment reflects a market value of \$343,966 using the 2009 three year average median level of assessments for class 2 property of 8.90% as determined by the Illinois Department of Revenue. (86 Ill.Admin.Code 1910.50(c)(2)).

In support of the subject's estimated market value as reflected by its assessment, the board of review submitted a grid analysis of four comparable properties with copies of property characteristic sheets of the subject and comparables. The grid analysis provided assessment data for the subject and four comparables, which is not responsive to the appellant's overvaluation argument.

Also attached to the board of review's data was a one-page printout of 20 sales identified only by parcel number and entitled "Class 78 2+ story modern size res within neighborhood 37200 of Township Thornton." The properties sold between December 1996 and August 2007 for prices ranging from \$218,450 to \$3,350,000. No other descriptive data was submitted for purposes of analyzing these properties.

After reviewing the record and considering the evidence, the Board finds it has jurisdiction over the parties and the subject matter of the appeal. The Board further finds the evidence in the record supports a reduction in the subject's assessment.

The appellant contends the market value of the subject property is not accurately reflected in its assessed valuation. When market value is the basis of the appeal the value of the property must be proved by a preponderance of the evidence. National City Bank of Michigan/Illinois v. Illinois Property Tax Appeal Board, 331 Ill.App.3d 1038 (3<sup>rd</sup> Dist. 2002). Proof of market value may consist of an appraisal of the subject property, a recent sale of the subject property or comparable sales. (86 Ill.Admin.Code 1910.65(c)). A contemporaneous sale between two parties dealing at arm's length is not only relevant to the question of fair cash value but practically conclusive on the issue on whether the assessment is reflective of market value. Korzen v. Belt Railway Co. of Chicago, 37 Ill.2d 158 (1967). After an analysis of the evidence in the record, the Board finds the appellant has met this burden of proof and a reduction in the subject's assessment is warranted.

The Board finds the best evidence of market value in the record is the sale of the subject property in March 2009 for a price of \$260,000. The subject's total assessment reflects an estimated market value of \$343,966, which is greater than its purchase price. The Board finds the board of review submitted equity comparables but did not address or refute the appellant's market value argument. In fact, these equity comparables do not support the board of review's assessment of the subject property.

Moreover, the board of review provided no evidence to indicate that the subject's sale was not an arm's length transaction. The subject property was advertised for sale and there was no indication the parties were related. Based on this record the Board finds the subject had a market value of \$260,000 as of the January 1, 2009 assessment date. Since fair market value has been established, the 2009 three-year median level of assessment for class 2 property in Cook County of 8.90% as determined by the Illinois Department of Revenue shall apply. (See 86 Ill.Admin.Code 1910.50(c)(2)).

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.