



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

APPELLANT: Don Wetzsteon
DOCKET NO.: 09-31991.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 14-32-125-022-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Don Wetzsteon, the appellant, by attorney James E. Hussey, of James E. Hussey, Ltd. 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: \$ 9,922
IMPR.: \$ 54,453
TOTAL: \$ 64,375

Subject only to the State multiplier as applicable.

ANALYSIS

The subject has 1,323 square feet of land, which is improved with a 22 year old, two-story, masonry, single-family dwelling. The subject's improvement size is 1,644 square feet of living area, which equates to an improvement assessment of \$33.12 per square foot of living area. Its total assessment is \$64,375, which yields a fair market value of \$723,315, or \$439.97 per square foot of living area (including land), after applying the 2009 Illinois Department of Revenue three year median level of assessment for Class 2 properties of 8.90%. The appellant, via counsel, argued that there was unequal treatment in the assessment process of the subject's improvement, and also that the fair market value of the subject property was not accurately reflected in its assessed value as the bases of this appeal.

In support of the equity argument, the appellant submitted descriptive and assessment information for six properties suggested as comparable to the subject. The comparables are described as two-story or three-story, masonry or frame and masonry, single-family dwellings. Additionally, the comparables range: in age from 20 to 35 years; in size from 1,456 to 3,646 square feet of living area; and in improvement assessments from \$20.05 to \$27.53 per square foot of living area. The comparables also have various amenities.

In support of the market value argument, the appellant submitted descriptive and sales information for one sale comparable. The comparable is described as a two-story, masonry, single-family dwelling. Additionally, the comparable is 23 years old, and has 1,456 square feet of living area. The comparable also has several amenities. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested a reduction in the subject's improvement assessment.

The Cook County Board of Review submitted its "Board of Review-Notes on Appeal," wherein the subject's total assessment of \$64,375 was disclosed. In support of the subject's assessment, the board of review submitted descriptive and assessment information for four properties suggested as comparable to the subject. The comparables are described as two-story, masonry, single-family dwellings. Additionally, the comparables are 22 years old, have 1,644 square feet of living area, and have improvement assessments ranging from \$33.12 to \$37.35 per square foot of living area. The comparables also have several amenities.

The board of review's grid sheet also states that Comparable #1 sold in August 2007 for \$900,000, or \$547.45 per square foot of living area, including land. Based on this evidence, the board of review requested confirmation of the subject's assessment.

In rebuttal, the appellant stated that the board of review's comparables should not be considered by The Property Tax Appeal Board. The appellant's rebuttal outlines past decisions by the board of review and asks the Board to consider these past practices when making its decision of this appeal.

After reviewing the record, considering the evidence, and hearing the testimony, the Property Tax Appeal Board (the "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. Cook Cnty. Bd. of Review v. Prop. Tax Appeal Bd., 339 Ill. App. 3d 529, 545 (1st Dist. 2002); National City Bank of Michigan/Illinois v. Prop. Tax Appeal Bd., 331 Ill. App. 3d 1038, 1042 (3d Dist. 2002) (citing Winnebago Cnty. Bd. of Review v. Prop. Tax Appeal Bd., 313 Ill. App. 3d 179 (2d Dist. 2000)); 86 Ill. Admin. Code § 1910.63(e). 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. Calumet Transfer, LLC v. Prop. Tax Appeal Bd., 401 Ill. App. 3d 652, 655 (1st Dist. 2010); 86 Ill. Admin. Code § 1910.65(c). Having considered the evidence presented, the Board finds that the evidence indicates a reduction is not warranted.

The Board finds that all of the comparables submitted by the board of review were most similar to the subject in location,

size, style, exterior construction, features, and/or age. Due to their similarities to the subject, these comparables received the most weight in the Board's analysis. These comparables had a price per square foot of \$37.35, including land. The subject's price per square foot of \$439.97 is above the range established by the most similar comparables. Therefore, after considering adjustments and differences in both parties' comparables when compared to the subject, the Board finds that the subject is not overvalued, and a reduction in the subject's assessment is not warranted based on the sales comparables submitted by the parties.

The appellant contends unequal treatment in the subject's improvement assessment as the basis of this 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. Walsh v. Prop. Tax Appeal Bd., 181 Ill. 2d 228, 234 (1998) (citing Kankakee Cnty. Bd. of Review v. Prop. Tax Appeal Bd., 131 Ill. 2d 1 (1989)); 86 Ill. Admin. Code § 1910.63(e). To succeed in an appeal based on lack of uniformity, the appellant must submit documentation "showing the similarity, proximity and lack of distinguishing characteristics of the assessment comparables to the subject property." Cook Cnty. Bd. of Review v. Prop. Tax Appeal Bd., 403 Ill. App. 3d 139, 145 (1st Dist. 2010); 86 Ill. Admin. Code § 1910.65(b). "[T]he critical consideration is not the number of allegedly similar properties, but whether they are in fact 'comparable' to the subject property." Cook Cnty. Bd. of Review v. Prop. Tax Appeal Bd., 403 Ill. App. 3d at 145 (citing DuPage Cnty. Bd. of Review v. Prop. Tax Appeal Bd., 284 Ill. App. 3d 649, 654-55 (2d Dist. 1996)). After an analysis of the assessment data, the Board finds that the appellant has not met this burden.

The Board finds that all of the comparables submitted by the board of review were most similar to the subject in location, size, style, exterior construction, features, and/or age. 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 \$33.12 to \$37.35 per square foot of living area. The subject's improvement assessment of \$33.12 per square foot of living area is within the range established by the most similar comparables.

The constitutional provision for uniformity of taxation and valuation does not require a mathematical equality. A practical, rather than an absolute one, is the test. Apex Motor Fuel Co. v. Barrett, 20 Ill. 2d. 395, 401 (1960). Although the comparables submitted by the parties disclosed that properties located in the same area are not assessed at identical levels, all 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 Board finds that the subject's

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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.

Donald R. Cuit

Chairman

Frank A. Huff

Member

Marko M. Louie

Member

[Signature]

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 21, 2014

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.