



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

APPELLANT: William Long
DOCKET NO.: 09-32906.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 05-19-326-021-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are William Long, the appellant, by attorney Thomas M. Battista of the Law Offices of Thomas M. Battista 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: \$6,705
IMPR.: \$55,795
TOTAL: \$62,500**

Subject only to the State multiplier as applicable.

ANALYSIS

Statement of Jurisdiction

The appellant timely filed the appeal from a decision of the Cook County Board of Review pursuant to section 16-160 of the Property Tax Code (35 ILCS 200/16-160) challenging the assessment for the 2009 tax year. The Property Tax Appeal Board finds that it has jurisdiction over the parties and the subject matter of the appeal.

Findings of Fact

The subject property consists of a two-story dwelling of frame and masonry construction. The dwelling is approximately seven years old and has 4,186 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 property has a 7,450 square foot site and is located in Northfield, New Trier Township, Cook County. The subject is classified as a

class 2-08 property under the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance.

The appellant's appeal is based on overvaluation. In support of this argument, the appellant submitted evidence disclosing the subject property sold as a contract for deed on April 27, 2009 for a price of \$625,000. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested a reduction in the subject's assessment to reflect the purchase price.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" disclosing the total assessment for the subject of \$111,282. The subject's assessment reflects a market value of \$1,250,360 or \$298.70 per square foot of living area, land included, when using the 2009 three year average median level of assessments for class 2 property of 8.90% under the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance as determined by the Illinois Department of Revenue.

In support of its contention of the correct assessment, the board of review submitted information on four comparable properties, none of which were sales. As part of its evidence, the board of review disclosed the subject property sold in August 2007 for a price of \$1,200,000 or for \$286.67 per square foot of living area, land included.

The appellant's attorney submitted a rebuttal brief.

Conclusion of Law

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. 86 Ill.Admin.Code §1910.63(e). Proof of market value may consist of an appraisal of the subject property, a recent sale, comparable sales or construction costs. 86 Ill.Admin.Code §1910.65(c). The Board finds the appellant met this burden of proof and a reduction in the subject's assessment is warranted.

The Board finds the best evidence of market value to be the purchase of the subject property in April 2009 for a price of \$625,000. The appellant provided evidence demonstrating the sale had the elements of an arm's length transaction. The appellant completed Section IV - Recent Sale Data of the residential appeal form disclosing the name of the seller; the parties to the transaction were not related; the property was

sold using a realtor; the property was advertised on the open market with the Multiple Listing Service (MLS); and the seller's mortgage had not been assumed. The appellant also disclosed that the subject sold as a contract for deed. The appellant submitted a copy of the settlement statement which revealed that a commission had been paid to a realty firm. The appellant also provided a copy of the subject's MLS listing which revealed that the subject had been on the market for 344 days. The Board finds the purchase price is below the market value reflected by the assessment. The Board finds the board of review did not present any evidence to challenge the arm's length nature of the transaction and was not able to refute the contention that the purchase price was reflective of market value. Based on this record the Board finds the subject property had a market value of \$625,000 as of January 1, 2009. A reduction in the subject's assessment commensurate with the appellant's request is appropriate.

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

Tracy 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 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.