



A M E N D E D

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

APPELLANT: Michael Baron
DOCKET NO.: 09-34646.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 18-05-316-045-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Michael Baron, the appellant(s), by attorney Ram Natarajan, of Natarajan Legal, P.C. in Westmont; 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: \$4,242
IMPR.: \$55,914
TOTAL: \$60,156

Subject only to the State multiplier as applicable.

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 7,378 square foot parcel of land improved with a 56-year old, two-story, frame and masonry, single-family dwelling containing 2,414 square feet of living area. The property is located in Lyons Township, Cook County. The subject is classified as 2-78 property under the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance.

The appellant contends inequity and overvaluation as the bases of the appeal. In support of this argument the appellant submitted four equity and sales comparables.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" disclosing the total assessment for the subject of \$67,887 with an improvement assessment of \$63,645 or \$26.36 per square foot of living area. The subject's total assessment reflects a market value of \$762,775 or \$315.98 per square foot of living area using the Illinois Department of Revenue's 2009 three-year median level of assessment of 8.90 % for class 2 properties.

In support of its contention of the correct assessment the board of review submitted four equity comparables and four sales comparables.

Conclusion of Law

The appellant contends assessment inequity as the basis of the appeal. When unequal treatment in the assessment process is the basis of the appeal, the inequity of the assessments must be proved by clear and convincing evidence. 86 Ill.Admin.Code §1910.63(e). Proof of unequal treatment in the assessment process should consist of documentation of the assessments for the assessment year in question of not less than three comparable properties showing the similarity, proximity and lack of distinguishing characteristics of the assessment comparables to the subject property. 86 Ill.Admin.Code §1910.65(b). The Board finds the appellant did not meet this burden of proof and a reduction in the subject's assessment is not warranted.

The parties presented a total of eight equity comparables. The Board finds the appellant's comparables #1, #2, and #3 and the board of review's comparables #1, #2, and #4 similar to the subject. These comparables had assessments from \$18.35 to \$27.35 per square foot of living area. In comparison, the subject's assessment of \$26.36 per square foot of living area falls within the range established by the comparables in this record.

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 (1960). Although the comparables presented 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.

The appellant also 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 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 to be the appellant's comparable #1 and #2 and the board of review's comparable #4. These properties sold between November 2009 and December 2009 for prices ranging from \$192.31 to \$287.57 per square foot of living area. The subject's assessment reflects a market value of \$315.98 per square foot of living area which is above the range established by the best comparables in this record. Based on this record and after adjustments to the comparables, the Board finds the appellant did demonstrate by a preponderance of the evidence that the subject was overvalued and a reduction in the subject's assessment is justified.

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

Mario Morris

Member

JR

Member

Jerry White

Member

Acting 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: July 24, 2015

A. Portol

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.