



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

APPELLANT: Ludmila Romanovska  
DOCKET NO.: 10-01618.001-R-1  
PARCEL NO.: 09-05-105-041

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Ludmila Romanovska, the appellant; and the DuPage 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 DuPage County Board of Review is warranted. The correct assessed valuation of the property is:

**LAND:** \$57,233  
**IMPR.:** \$100  
**TOTAL:** \$57,333

Subject only to the State multiplier as applicable.

**ANALYSIS**

The subject property is improved with a one-story dwelling of frame construction containing 1,092 square feet of living area. Features of the home include a full unfinished basement, central air conditioning and a fireplace. The dwelling was built in 1951. The property is located in Downers Grove Township, DuPage County.

The appellant contends the market value of the subject property is not accurately reflected in its assessed valuation. In support of this overvaluation argument the appellant submitted a settlement statement, a sales contract and a multiple listing service (MLS) sheet for the recent sale of the subject property. The appellant also completed Section IV-Recent Sales Data of the Residential Appeal form. The recent sales data revealed that the subject property was purchased in January 2010 for a price of \$170,000. The data from the MLS sheet also revealed that the subject was exposed to the market by a realtor through a multiple listing service for 471 days. The sale was not a transfer between family or related party. Based on this evidence the

appellant requested the subject's assessment be reduced to reflect the subject's sale price.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" wherein the subject's final assessment of \$108,880 was disclosed. The subject's assessment reflects an estimated market value of \$327,163 using DuPage County's 2010 three-year median level of assessments of 33.28%.

In support of the subject's assessment, the board of review submitted three sales located in Downers Grove. The comparables were described as being improved with one-story dwellings of frame construction containing from 1,005 to 1,321 square feet of living area. The dwellings were built from 1954 to 1968. The homes feature full basements, one of which is partially finished. The comparables have garages ranging in size from 260 to 576 square feet of building area. Two comparables have a fireplace. Information regarding whether the comparables have central air condition was not disclosed in the board of review's grid analysis. The sales occurred from January to May 2010 for prices ranging from \$245,000 to \$327,500 or from \$244 to \$310 per square foot of living area, rounded, including land.

The board of review also included a "Lis Pendens and Notice of Foreclosure" disclosing that the subject property was the subject of a foreclosure proceeding filed on November 19, 2008.

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 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, 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 in the record is the sale of the subject property in January 2010 for \$170,000. The Illinois Supreme Court has defined fair cash value as what the property would bring at a voluntary sale where the owner is ready, willing, and able to sell but not compelled to do so, and the buyer is ready, willing and able to buy but not forced to do so. Springfield Marine Bank v. Property Tax Appeal Board, 44 Ill.2d. 428, (1970). A contemporaneous sale of property between

parties dealing at arm's-length is a relevant factor in determining the correctness of an assessment and may be practically conclusive on the issue of whether an assessment is reflective of market value. Rosewell v. 2626 Lakeview Limited Partnership, 120 Ill.App.3d 369 (1<sup>st</sup> Dist. 1983), People ex rel. Munson v. Morningside Heights, Inc, 45 Ill.2d 338 (1970), People ex rel. Korzen v. Belt Railway Co. of Chicago, 37 Ill.2d 158 (1967); and People ex rel. Rhodes v. Turk, 391 Ill. 424 (1945).

The Board finds the notice of foreclosure, without corroborating evidence of duress, does not overcome the market evidence of an arms-length transaction. The subject was sold by a realtor, Inga Sapalaite, after 471 days of market exposure time through a multiple listing service. The transfer was not between family or related corporations. The Board finds the subject's assessment reflects a market value greater than the subject's sale price presented by the appellant. Based on this record the Property Tax Appeal Board finds the subject's assessment is excessive and a reduction commensurate with the appellant's request 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.

*Ronald R. Cuit*

Chairman

*Frank J. Huff*

Member

*Mario M. Louie*

Member

*J.R.*

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: March 22, 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.