



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

APPELLANT: Jody Wittenberg
DOCKET NO.: 10-03645.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 16-10-320-005

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Jody Wittenberg, the appellant; and the Lake 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 **Lake** County Board of Review is warranted. The correct assessed valuation of the property is:

LAND: \$92,703
IMPR.: \$102,985
TOTAL: \$195,688

Subject only to the State multiplier as applicable.

ANALYSIS

The subject parcel is improved with a tri-level dwelling of brick and frame construction. The dwelling contains approximately 2,010 square feet of living area and was built in 1963. It features a lower level with finished area, a partial unfinished basement, central air conditioning and a garage containing 460 square feet. The dwelling is located in Highland Park, Moraine Township, Lake County.

The appellant's appeal is based on unequal treatment in the assessment process. The appellant submitted information on three comparable properties described as tri-level dwellings of brick construction. The dwellings were built in 1962 or 1963 and contain either 2,019 or 2,030 square feet of living area. The comparables feature lower levels with finished area, fireplaces and garages that contain either 440 or 483 square feet. One of the comparables features central air conditioning. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$72,592 to \$81,076 or from \$35.95 to \$40.16 per square foot of living area. The subject has an improvement assessment of \$102,985 or \$51.24 per square foot of living area.

In a letter to the Property Tax Appeal Board, the appellant claims the Moraine County Assessor's office stated the appellant's comparables were the subject of recent assessment

scrutiny and adjustment, whereas the assessor's comparables had not been re-evaluated since 2007. The appellant claims their comparables are the best evidence of 2010 assessed values. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested a reduction in the subject's improvement assessment to \$77,345 or \$38.48 per square foot of living area.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" wherein the subject's final assessment was disclosed. In support of the subject's assessment, the board of review presented descriptions, a grid analysis, property record cards and photographic evidence for four comparable properties. The dwellings are tri-level brick, frame or brick and frame construction. They were built between 1956 and 1963 and range in size from 1,804 to 2,145 square feet of living area. The comparables feature lower levels, three with finished area, and three have unfinished basements. All have central air conditioning, 1 or 2 fireplaces and garages that range in size from 450 to 507 square feet. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$90,556 to \$116,198 or from \$50.20 to \$54.84 per square foot of living area. 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 Property Tax Appeal Board further finds the evidence in the record does not support a reduction in the subject's assessment.

The appellant contends unequal treatment in the subject's improvement assessment as the basis of the 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. Kankakee County Board of Review v. Property Tax Appeal Board, 131 Ill.2d 1 (1989). After an analysis of the assessment data, the Board finds the appellant has not met this burden.

The parties submitted a total of seven different comparable properties with varying degrees of similarity to the subject. These comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$72,592 to \$116,198 or from \$35.95 to \$54.84 per square foot of living area. The subject's improvement assessment of \$102,985 or \$51.24 per square foot of living area falls within the range established by these comparables. After considering adjustments and differences in both parties' comparables, the Board finds the subject's assessment is equitable and no reduction is warranted.

The constitutional provision for uniformity of taxation and valuation does not require mathematical equality. The requirement is satisfied if the intent is evident to adjust the burden with a reasonable degree of uniformity and if such is the effect of the statute enacted by the General Assembly establishing the method of assessing real property in its general operation. A practical

uniformity, 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 appellant disclosed that properties located in the same area are not assessed at identical levels, all that 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 Property Tax Appeal Board finds that the subject's 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.

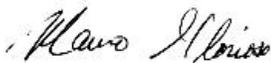


Chairman



Member

Member



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 24, 2013



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.