



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

APPELLANT: Scott Brown
DOCKET NO.: 10-32865.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 29-09-201-050-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Scott Brown, the appellant(s), by attorney Joe Lee Huang, of Law Offices of Terrence Kennedy Jr. 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: \$1,817
IMPR: \$1,073
TOTAL: \$2,890**

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 2010 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 5,593 square foot parcel of land improved with a 53-year old, one-story, masonry, single-family dwelling containing 1,280 square feet of living area. The property is located in Dolton, Thornton Township, Cook

County. The property is a class 2-03 property under the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance.

The appellant contends overvaluation as the basis of the appeal. In support of this argument the appellant submitted copies of the settlement statement and a "REDFIN" printout disclosing that the subject was purchased in December 2008 for \$28,900 or \$22.66 per square foot of living area. The settlement statement list realtor fees and shows the seller as The Bank of New York Trust Company, N.A.

In addition, the appellant provided limited sales information on 10 properties that sold within six months of the printing of the document. The document is undated, but indicates it was last updated on October 19, 2012. These properties sold for prices ranging from \$7,199 to \$45,900. There are no descriptions of the properties, but the square footage and number of beds and baths are listed under a blurred black and white photograph. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested a reduction in the subject's assessment.

The board of review submitted "Board of Review-Notes on Appeal" wherein the subject's total assessment of \$7,871 was disclosed. The subject's final assessment reflects a fair market value of \$88,043 or \$68.78 per square foot of living area using the Illinois Department of Revenue's 2010 three year median level of assessment for class 2 property of 8.90%.

In support of the subject's assessment, the board of review submitted descriptions and sales and assessment information on four properties. These properties are described as one-story, masonry, single-family dwellings containing between 1,036 and 1,277 square feet of living area. They sold from February to October 2007 for prices ranging from \$74.63 to \$103.37 per square foot of living area. As a result of this analysis, the board requested confirmation of the subject's assessment.

Conclusion of Law

When overvaluation is claimed the appellant has the burden of proving the value of the property by a preponderance of the evidence. National City Bank of Michigan/Illinois v. Illinois Property Tax Appeal Board, 331Ill.App.3d 1038 (3rd Dist. 2002); Winnebago County Board of Review v. Property Tax Appeal Board, 313 Ill.App.3d 179 (2nd Dist. 2000). 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. 86
Ill.Admin.Code 1910.65(c).

In addressing the appellant's market value argument, the Board finds that the sale of the subject in December 2008 was a "compulsory sale." A "compulsory sale" is defined as

(i) the sale of real estate for less than the amount owed to the mortgage lender or mortgagor, if the lender or mortgagor has agreed to the sale, commonly referred to as a "short sale" and (ii) the first sale of real estate owned by a financial institution as a result of a judgment of foreclosure, transfer pursuant to a deed in lieu of foreclosure, or consent judgment, occurring after the foreclosure proceeding is complete.

35 ILCS 200/1-23. Real property in Illinois must be assessed at its fair cash value, which can only be estimated absent any compulsion on either party.

Illinois law requires that all real property be valued at its fair cash value, estimated at the price it would bring at a fair voluntary sale where the owner is ready, willing, and able to sell but not compelled to do so, and the buyer is likewise ready, willing, and able to buy, but is not forced to do so.

Board of Educ. of Meridian Community Unit School Dist. No. 223 v. Illinois Property Tax Appeal Board, 961 N.E.2d 794, 802, 356 Ill.Dec. 405, 413 (2d Dist. 2011) (citing Chrysler Corp. v. Illinois Property Tax Appeal Board, 69 Ill.App.3d 207, 211, 387 N.E.2d 351 (2d Dist. 1979)).

However, the Illinois General Assembly recently provided very clear guidance for the Board with regards to compulsory sales. Section 16-183 of the Illinois Property Tax Code states as follows:

The Property Tax Appeal Board shall consider compulsory sales of comparable properties for the purpose of revising and correcting assessments, including those compulsory sales of comparable properties submitted by the taxpayer.

35 ILCS 200/16-183. Therefore, the Board is statutorily required to consider compulsory sales of comparable properties.

In considering the compulsory sale of the subject property the Board looks to the comparable sales to determine if the subject's sale was reflective of the market. The Board finds the appellant and the board of review included sales information on 14 comparables. These sales occurred from February 2007 to sometime in October 2012 for prices ranging from \$6.66 to \$103.37 per square foot of living area. In comparison, the subject sold in December 2008 for \$22.66 per square foot of living area; this sale is within the range established by the market. The Board finds the subject's sale is reflective of the market value. This sale is below the market value reflected by the assessment. Therefore, the Board finds the subject's assessment is not supported and a reduction to that requested by the appellant 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: November 21, 2014



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.