

PROPERTY TAX APPEAL BOARD'S DECISION

APPELLANT: Galaxy Oil, Inc.  
DOCKET NO.: 05-22036.001-C-1  
PARCEL NO.: 20-19-339-047-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Galaxy Oil, Inc., the appellant, by attorney M. Whitley of Marino & Associates, PC of Chicago and the Cook County Board of Review.

The subject property consists of a one story, 3,652 square foot, new gas station located on a 12,375 square foot site in Lake Township, Cook County.

The appellant, through counsel, submitted documentation to demonstrate that the subject property was improperly assessed. This evidence was timely filed by the appellant pursuant to the Official Rules of the PTAB. In support of the request for relief due to the subject's diminished income, the appellant submitted two years of income and estimated expenses for the subject property resulting in a capitalization of the net operating income. The income and expense analysis was prepared by the law firm of Marino and Associates who claim to be certified to perform income and expense analyses. In addition, the appellant offered three suggested comparable gas stations located within three miles of the subject. These properties consist of one-story buildings of masonry construction and range in age from one to 40 years. The comparables are located on sites ranging from 8,100 to 20,189 square feet. The comparables contain between 1,456 and 2,040 square feet of building area and have total assessments ranging from \$85,107 to \$110,174 or from \$49.14 to \$62.96 per square foot of building area. 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" that disclosed the subject's total assessment of \$125,790 or \$34.44 per square foot. The board submitted evidence in support of its assessed valuation of the subject property. The board's

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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 COOK County Board of Review is warranted. The correct assessed valuation of the property is:

LAND: \$ 22,572  
IMPR. \$103,218  
TOTAL: \$125,790

Subject only to the State multiplier as applicable.

PTAB/TMcG.

evidence consists of an analysis of 69 service stations or auto repair shops. The board's evidence consists of raw data prior to adjustments for market conditions, location, size, land to building ratio, zoning and other related factors. Based on this evidence the board requested confirmation of the subject's present assessment.

After hearing the testimony and considering the evidence, the PTAB finds that it has jurisdiction over the parties and the subject matter of this appeal.

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, 331 Ill.App.3d 1038 (3<sup>rd</sup> Dist. 2002); Winnebago County Board of Review v. Property Tax Appeal Board, 313 Ill.App.3d 179, 728 N.E.2d 1256 (2<sup>nd</sup> 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. Section 1910.65 *The Official Rules of the Property Tax Appeal Board* (86 Ill.Adm.Code §1910.65(c)).

The PTAB finds the appellant's argument that the subject's assessment is excessive when applying an income approach based on the subject's lost income due to total vacancy unconvincing and not supported by evidence in the record. In Springfield Marine Bank v. Property Tax Appeal Board, 44 Ill.2d 428 (1970), the court stated:

[I]t is the value of the "tract or lot of real property" which is assessed, rather than the value of the interest presently held. . . . [R]ental income may of course be a relevant factor. However, it cannot be the controlling factor, particularly where it is admittedly misleading as to the fair cash value of the property involved. . . . [E]arning capacity is properly regarded as the most significant element in arriving at "fair cash value".

Many factors may prevent a property owner from realizing an income from property, which accurately reflects its true earning capacity; but it is the capacity for earning income, rather than the income actually derived, which reflects "fair cash value" for taxation purposes. Springfield Marine Bank v. Property Tax Appeal Board 44 Ill.2d 428 at 431

Actual expenses and income can be useful when shown that they are reflective of the market. The appellant did not demonstrate that

the subject's lost income was reflective of the market. To demonstrate or estimate the subject's market value using an income approach, as the appellant attempted, one must establish through the use of market data the market rent, vacancy and collection losses, and expenses to arrive at a net operating income. Further, the appellant must establish through the use of market data a capitalization rate to convert the net income into an estimate of market value. The appellant failed to follow this procedure in developing the income approach to value; therefore, the Property Tax Appeal Board gives this argument no weight.

The PTAB finds the appellant's equity comparables lack similarity to the subject in either building size or location or age. These properties have total assessments ranging from \$49.14 to \$62.96 per square foot of building area. The subject's per square foot total assessment of \$34.44 is well below this range of properties. The PTAB affords less weight to the appellant's comparables because they are less similar to the subject in living area. After considering the differences in the suggested comparables when compared to the subject property, the PTAB finds the subject's per square foot assessment is supported by the properties contained in the record.

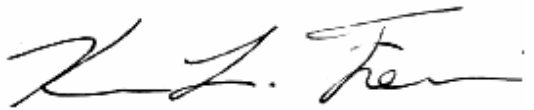
The PTAB finds the board's service station evidence carries little weight because it lacks an analysis resulting in conclusion of value by a certified analysis.

The Property Tax Appeal Board finds the appellant has failed to demonstrate by a preponderance of the evidence that the subject property is overvalued. Therefore, the Property Tax Appeal Board finds that no reduction in the subject's assessment 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: January 25, 2008



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.