



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

APPELLANT: Craig Wolfe
DOCKET NO.: 06-27366.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 13-29-300-002-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Craig Wolfe, the appellant, by attorney Timothy C. Jacobs, of Gary H. Smith PC 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: \$ 7,539
IMPR.: \$ 15,231
TOTAL: \$ 22,770

Subject only to the State multiplier as applicable.

ANALYSIS

The subject property is improved with a one-story mixed use commercial and multi-family building of masonry construction containing 1,890 square feet of building area. The building is 80 years old and has a partial, unfinished basement, central air conditioning and a one and one-half car garage.

The appellant submitted evidence before the Property Tax Appeal Board claiming unequal treatment in the assessment process and overvaluation as the bases of the appeal. In support of the equity argument, the appellant submitted information on three comparable properties with the same classification and neighborhood codes as the subject property. They are described as masonry mixed use commercial and multi-family buildings that are 78 or 83 years old. They range in size from 2,112 to 2,515 square feet of building area. The comparables have a partial, unfinished basement, one has central air conditioning and each has a garage. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$12.08 to \$14.08 per square foot of building area. The subject's improvement assessment is \$14.23 per square foot of building area.

In support of the overvaluation argument, the appellant submitted an appraisal report in which a market value of \$225,000 was

estimated for the subject as of November 8, 2005. The income and sales comparison approaches were utilized in the report. As a result, the appellant requested a reduction in the subject's assessment.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" wherein the subject's final assessment of \$34,431 was disclosed. The subject's assessment reflects a market value of \$340,227 using the 2006 three year median level of assessments for class 2 property of 10.12%. In support of the subject's assessment, the board of review offered the property characteristic sheets and a spreadsheet detailing four suggested comparable properties. The comparable properties consist of one-story masonry buildings that are either 12 or 54 years old. They have full or partial basements, two of which are finished, two have central air conditioning, two have a fireplace and two have a two-car garage. They contain either 1,512 or 2,668 square feet and have improvement assessments of either \$14.07 or \$19.55 per square foot. The board of review also submitted a list of sales prices and sales dates for 20 properties. However, descriptions of these properties were not submitted. 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 appellant claimed the subject property's assessment was not reflective of its true market value. When market value is the basis of the appeal, the value must be proved by a preponderance of the evidence. Winnebago County Board of Review v. Property Tax Appeal Board, 313 Ill.App.3d 179, 183, 728 N.E.2d 1256 (2d Dist. 2000). The Board finds that based on the evidence contained in the record the appellant has sufficiently established overvaluation by a preponderance of the evidence and a reduction in the subject's total assessment is warranted.

The Board finds the appraisal report submitted by the appellant in which a market value of \$225,000 was estimated for the subject on November 8, 2005 is the best evidence of the subject's market value as of the January 1, 2006 assessment date. The subject's assessment reflects a market value of \$340,227 and is in excess of the market value estimate contained in the recent appraisal report. The board of review submitted no evidence to refute the findings contained in the appraisal report. Moreover, the board of review failed to sufficiently address the appellant's market value contention. Although a list of sales of properties in the subject's neighborhood was submitted, there were no descriptions of these properties to compare with the subject. Thus, the Board finds the subject has a market value of \$225,000 and the 2006 three-year median level of assessments for Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance Class 2 property of 10.12% as determined by the Illinois Department of Revenue shall apply. (86 Ill.Admin.Code 1910.50(c)(2))

The appellant also argued the subject property was inequitably assessed. The Illinois Supreme Court has held that 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). The evidence must demonstrate a consistent pattern of assessment inequities within the assessment jurisdiction. The Property Tax Appeal Board finds that after considering the assessment reduction based upon market value principals, the subject property is uniformly assessed and no further 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.

Ronald R. Guit

Chairman

Frank A. Grief

Member

Member

Mark Morris

Member

Shawn R. Gorski

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 21, 2010

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.