



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

APPELLANT: James W. Lourgos
DOCKET NO.: 07-28841.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 14-33-400-001-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are James W. Lourgos, the appellant(s), by attorney Patrick J. Cullerton, of Thompson Coburn LLP in Chicago; and the Cook 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 Cook County Board of Review is warranted. The correct assessed valuation of the property is:

LAND: \$13,760
IMPR.: \$74,243
TOTAL: \$88,003

Subject only to the State multiplier as applicable.

ANALYSIS

The subject property consists of a 1,313 square foot parcel of land improved with a 116-year old, three-story, masonry, mixed-use building containing 4,183 square feet of building area. The appellant, via counsel, argued both the market value of the subject property is not accurately reflected in the property's assessed valuation and that there was unequal treatment in the assessment process of the improvement as the bases of this appeal.

In support of the market value argument, the appellant submitted copies of income and expense statements for the subject property for 2004 through 2006, a hand written 2007 rent roll, and an income capitalization analysis to support a reduction in the subject's market value.

In support of the equity argument, the appellant submitted assessment data and descriptions on a total of three properties suggested as comparable to the subject. The data in its entirety reflects that the properties are improved with a masonry, three-

story mixed-use building. Features include three or five rental units, between three and one-half and five and one-half baths, partial unfinished basements, and air conditioning for two properties. The properties range: in age from 103 to 115 years; in size from 4,350 to 4,872 square feet of building area; and in improvement assessments from \$7.10 to \$14.30 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" wherein the subject's improvement assessment of \$74,243 or \$17.75 per square foot of building area and total assessment of \$88,003 were disclosed. The subject's total assessment reflects a fair market value of \$876,524 when the Illinois Department of Revenue's 2007 three-year median level of assessment of 10.04% for Cook County Class 2 properties is applied.

In support of the subject's assessment, the board of review presented descriptions and assessment information on a total of four properties suggested as comparable and located within the subject's neighborhood. The properties are described as three-story, masonry, mixed-use buildings. Features include three rental units, two and one-half or three and one-half baths, partial unfinished basements, and air conditioning for one property. The properties range: in age from 101 to 113 years; in size from 2,520 to 3,864 square feet of living area; and in improvement assessment from \$18.61 to \$25.11 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence, the board of review requested confirmation of the subject's assessment.

After considering the evidence and reviewing the record, the Property Tax Appeal Board 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 (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). Having considered the evidence presented, the PTAB concludes that the evidence indicates a reduction based on market value is not warranted.

The appellant submitted documentation showing the income and expenses of the subject property. The PTAB gives the appellant's argument little weight. 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 that 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. *Id.* at 431.

Actual expenses and income can be useful when shown that they are reflective of the market. Although the appellant's attorney made this argument, the appellant did not demonstrate through an expert in real estate valuation that the subject's actual income and expenses are reflective of the market. To demonstrate or estimate the subject's market value using income, 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 reflective of the market and the property's capacity for earning income. The appellant did not provide such evidence and, therefore, the PTAB gives this argument no weight and finds that a reduction based on market value is not warranted.

Appellants 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, 544 N.E.2d 762 (1989). The evidence must demonstrate a consistent pattern of assessment inequities within the assessment jurisdiction. Proof of assessment inequity should include assessment data and documentation establishing the physical, locational, and jurisdictional similarities of the suggested comparables to the subject property. *Property Tax Appeal Board Rule* 1910.65(b). Mathematical equality in the assessment process is not required. A practical uniformity, rather than an absolute one is the test. Apex Motor Fuel Co. v. Barrett, 20 Ill. 2d 395, 169 N.E.2d 769 (1960). Having considered the evidence presented, the PTAB concludes that the appellant has not met this burden and that a reduction is not warranted.

The parties presented assessment data on a total of seven equity comparables. The PTAB finds the appellant's comparable #1 and the board of review's comparables #1 and #4 most similar to the subject in size, age, design, and/or construction. The properties are improved with a masonry, three-story, mixed-use building. The properties range: in age from 101 to 110 years; in size from 3,834 to 4,350 square feet of building area; and in improvement assessments from \$7.10 to \$19.12 per square foot of building area. In comparison, the subject's improvement assessment of \$17.75 per square foot of building area is within the range of comparables. After considering adjustments and the differences in

the comparables when compared to the subject, the PTAB finds the subject's per square foot improvement assessment is supported and a reduction in the subject's assessment is not 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 31, 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.