



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

APPELLANT: Andrew Bulkowski  
DOCKET NO.: 11-26814.001-R-1  
PARCEL NO.: 16-04-310-013-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Andrew Bulkowski, the appellant(s), by attorney Scott Shudnow, of Shudnow & Shudnow, Ltd. in Chicago; and the Cook County Board of Review.

Based on the facts and exhibits presented in this matter, 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:** \$ 5,250  
**IMPR.:** \$12,022  
**TOTAL:** \$17,272

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 16-185 of the Property Tax Code (35 ILCS 200/16-185) challenging the assessment for the 2011 tax year. The Property Tax Appeal Board (the "Board") finds that it has jurisdiction over the parties and the subject matter of the appeal.

**Findings of Fact**

The subject consists of a two-story dwelling of stucco construction with 2,048 square feet of living area. The dwelling is 113 year old. Features of the home include a full unfinished basement and a three-car garage. The property has a 5,000 square foot site, and is located in Chicago, West Chicago Township, Cook County. The subject is classified as a class 2-11 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 evidence disclosing the subject property was purchased on September 29, 2011 for a price of \$29,000. The appellant's attorney also included a brief outlining his argument, copy of a 2008 decision for a different property, a copy of the settlement statement, a copy of the Multiple Listing service printout, and a copy of the Illinois Department of Revenue PTAX-215 form for 2010. The appellant completed Section IV – Recent Sale Data in the Board's

appeal form, wherein it was stated that the subject was purchased pursuant to a foreclosure. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested a reduction in the subject's assessment to reflect the purchase price.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" disclosing the total assessment for the subject of \$17,272. The subject's assessment reflects a market value of \$182,002, or \$88.86 per square foot of living area, including land, when applying the 2011 three year average median level of assessment for class 2 property under the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance of 9.49% as determined by the Illinois Department of Revenue.

In support of its contention of the correct assessment, the board of review submitted information on four equity comparables with sale information for each. The board of review also submitted a Supplemental Brief arguing that the subject was purchased pursuant to a foreclosure. In support of this argument, the board of review submitted: a printout from the Cook County Recorder of Deeds' website showing that a *lis pendens* was placed on the subject on July 2, 2009 and that the Judicial Sales Corporation conveyed the subject to HSBC Bank USA on April 26, 2010; and to the appellant August 17, 2011 for \$29,000.

In rebuttal, the appellant argued that the board of review's comparables should be given no weight because they were based on raw, unadjusted data, and because they were dissimilar to the subject as to various key property characteristics. The appellant reaffirmed the request for an assessment reduction.

### **Conclusion of Law**

The appellant contends the market value of the subject property is not accurately reflected in its assessed valuation. When market value is the basis of the appeal the value of the property must be proved by a preponderance of the evidence. 86 Ill.Admin.Code §1910.63(e). Proof of market value may consist of an appraisal of the subject property, a recent sale, comparable sales or construction costs. 86 Ill.Admin.Code §1910.65(c). The Board finds the appellant did not meet this burden of proof and a reduction in the subject's assessment is not warranted.

The Board finds that the sale of the subject in August 2011 for \$29,000 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. The Board finds that the sale of the subject in August 2011 is a compulsory sale, in the form of a foreclosure, based on the appellant's own admission in Section IV – Recent

Sale Data in the Board's appeal form, and also based on the Supplemental Brief and supporting evidence submitted by the board of review.

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.

Bd. of Educ. of Meridian Cmty. Unit Sch. Dist. No. 223 v. Ill. Prop. Tax Appeal Bd., 2011 IL App (2d) 100068, ¶ 36 (citing Chrysler Corp. v. Ill. Prop. Tax Appeal Bd., 69 Ill.App.3d 207, 211 (2d Dist. 1979)).

However, when there is a recent sale of the subject, and that sale is a foreclosure, the Board may consider evidence which would show whether the sale price was representative of the subject's fair cash value. See 35 ILCS 200/16-183 ("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."). Such evidence can include the descriptive and sales information for recently sold properties that are similar to the subject. See id.

In this case, the Board finds that the best evidence of the subject's market value is the four sale comparables submitted by the board of review. These sales occurred from January 1, 2010 to May 1, 2010 and sold for prices ranging from \$95.01 to \$144.39 per square foot of living area. The subject's current assessment reflects a market value of \$88.86 per square foot of living area which falls below the range established by these comparables. Based on the record the Board finds that the subject's sale price is not representative of the subject's fair cash value. As such, the Board finds that the appellant did not meet his burden of proof 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



Acting Member

DISSENTING: \_\_\_\_\_

CERTIFICATION

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 23, 2016



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.