



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

APPELLANT: John C. Wallace
DOCKET NO.: 12-03349.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 18-2-14-34-02-205-007

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are John C. Wallace, the appellant; and the Madison 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 **Madison** County Board of Review is warranted. The correct assessed valuation of the property is:

LAND: \$5,610
IMPR: \$ 0
TOTAL: \$5,610

Subject only to the State multiplier as applicable.

Statement of Jurisdiction

The appellant timely filed this appeal pursuant to section 16-160 of the Property Tax Code (35 ILCS 200/16-160) from a notice of equalization issued by the Madison County Board of Review. The appellant challenged the assessment for the 2012 tax year. The Property Tax Appeal Board finds that it has limited jurisdiction over the parties and the subject matter of the appeal.

Findings of Fact

The subject property consists of an 11,018 square foot vacant lot located in Chouteau Township, Madison County, Illinois.

The appellant submitted evidence before the Property Tax Appeal Board claiming the subject's assessment was not reflective of market value. In support of this argument, the appellant presented documentation disclosing the subject property was purchased in an arm's-length transaction on March 28, 2012 for \$3,200.

The evidence further revealed that the appellant filed this appeal directly to the Property Tax Appeal Board following receipt of notice of a township equalization factor of .9706 issued by the board of review reducing the assessment of the subject property from \$5,780 to \$5,610. Based on this evidence the appellant requested the subject's assessment be reduced to reflect the purchase price.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" wherein the subject property's final equalized assessment of \$5,610 was disclosed. The subject's assessment reflects an estimated market value of \$16,842 when applying Madison County's 2012 three-year average median level of assessment of 33.31%. 86 Ill.Admin.Code §1910.50(c)(1). The notes on appeal disclosed the appellant did not file a complaint before the board of review nor appear before the board of review upon proper notice. The board of review requested no relief be granted since its decision was based on a negative equalization factor.

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 best evidence of market value to be the purchase of the subject property in March 2012 for \$3,200. The appellant provided corroborating documentation showing the subject's sale had the elements of an arm's-length transaction. The Board finds the subject's purchase price of \$3,200 is below the estimated market value as reflected by its assessment of \$16,842. Unfortunately, the record also disclosed that the appellant appealed the subject's assessment directly to the Property Tax Appeal Board based on notice of a township

equalization factor of .9706 issued by the board of review reducing the assessment of the subject from \$5,780 to \$5,610. Since the appeal was filed after notification of an equalization factor, the amount of relief that the Property Tax Appeal Board may grant is limited by administrative rule and statute. Section 1910.60(a) of the rules of the Property Tax Appeal Board states in part:

If the taxpayer or owner of property files a petition within 30 days after the postmark date of the written notice of the application of final, adopted township equalization factors, the relief the Property Tax Appeal Board may grant is limited to the amount of the **increase caused by the application of the township equalization factor.** 86 Ill.Admin.Code §1910.60(a). (Emphasis added.)

Additionally, section 16-180 of the Property Tax Code (35 ILCS 200/16-180) provides in pertinent part:

Where no complaint has been made to the board of review of the county where the property is located and the appeal is based solely on the effect of an equalization factor assigned to all property or to a class of property by the board of review, **the Property Tax Appeal Board may not grant a reduction in the assessment greater than the amount that was added as the result of the equalization factor.** (Emphasis added.)

These provisions mean that where a taxpayer files an appeal directly to the Property Tax Appeal Board after notice of application of an equalization factor, the Board cannot grant an assessment reduction greater than the amount of increase caused by the equalization factor. Villa Retirement Apartments, Inc. v. Property Tax Appeal Board, 302 Ill.App.3d 745, 753 (4th Dist. 1999). Neither the Board's rule nor the Property Tax Code provides that the Property Tax Appeal Board may further reduce an assessment where a "negative" equalization factor has been applied by the board of review lowering the pre-equalized assessment.

Based on a review of the evidence contained in the record, the Property Tax Appeal Board finds the township equalization factor applied by the board of review reduced the assessment rather than causing the assessment to increase. On the basis of these facts, the Board finds it has no jurisdiction to further reduce

the assessment of the subject property beyond the 2012 equalized assessment as established by the board of review. In conclusion, no reduction in the subject's assessment is appropriate based on the Board's limited jurisdiction.

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

Klaus Albino

Member

[Signature]

Member

Member

Jerry White

Acting 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: July 24, 2015

[Signature]

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.