



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

APPELLANT: Eugenia & Spiros Economos
DOCKET NO.: 13-00553.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 14-28-302-024

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Eugenia & Spiros Economos, the appellants, by attorney David Lavin of Robert H. Rosenfeld and Associates, LLC in Chicago, and the Lake 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 **Lake** County Board of Review is warranted. The correct assessed valuation of the property is:

LAND: \$13,946
IMPR.: \$72,512
TOTAL: \$86,458

Subject only to the State multiplier as applicable.

Statement of Jurisdiction

The appellants timely filed the appeal from a decision of the Lake County Board of Review pursuant to section 16-160 of the Property Tax Code (35 ILCS 200/16-160) challenging the assessment for the 2013 tax year. The Property Tax Appeal Board finds that it has jurisdiction over the parties and the subject matter of the appeal.

Findings of Fact

The subject property consists of a two-story dwelling of frame construction with 2,169 square feet of living area. The dwelling was constructed in 1977. Features of the home include a full unfinished basement, central air conditioning and a 456

square foot garage. The property has a 7,344 square foot site and is located in Lake Zurich, Ela Township, Lake County.

The appellants contend assessment inequity as the basis of the appeal. In support of this argument the appellants submitted information on three equity comparables located within .31 of a mile of the subject property. Based on this evidence, the appellants requested an improvement assessment \$61,057 or \$28.15 per square foot of living area.

Initially, the board of review submitted evidence concerning a different property than the subject along with comparable data.

In written rebuttal, the appellant noted that the board of review's evidence was erroneous with regard to the subject property and likewise for the comparable properties presented.

In reply, the board of review submitted revised evidence along with its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" disclosing the total assessment for the subject of \$86,458. The subject property has an improvement assessment of \$72,512 or \$33.43 per square foot of living area. In support of its contention of the correct assessment the board of review submitted information on four equity comparables located within .35 of a mile of the subject property.

In rebuttal, the board of review submitted a letter from Martin P. Paulson, Clerk of the Lake County Board of Review, who asserted that the appellant's comparable properties lack a basement feature which differs from the subject property. Based on this evidence and argument, the board of review requested confirmation of the subject's assessment.

The appellant was given thirty days to respond to the newly submitted evidence and did not respond to this supplemental filing by the board of review.

Conclusion of Law

The taxpayer contends assessment inequity as the basis of the appeal. When unequal treatment in the assessment process is the basis of the appeal, the inequity of the assessments must be proved by clear and convincing evidence. 86 Ill.Admin.Code §1910.63(e). Proof of unequal treatment in the assessment process should consist of documentation of the assessments for the assessment year in question of not less than three comparable properties showing the similarity, proximity and

lack of distinguishing characteristics of the assessment comparables to the subject property. 86 Ill.Admin.Code §1910.65(b). The Board finds the appellant did not meet this burden of proof and a reduction in the subject's assessment is not warranted.

The parties submitted a total of seven comparable properties to support their respective positions before the Property Tax Appeal Board. The Board has given little weight to the appellant's comparable dwellings which lack a basement feature as compared to the subject which has a 1,085 square foot basement.

The Board finds the best evidence of assessment equity to be the board of review's comparables. These comparables consist of two-story frame dwellings that were built between 1975 and 1986. The homes range in size from 2,167 to 2,169 square feet of living area. Each comparable has an unfinished basement, central air conditioning and a garage ranging in size from 400 to 456 square feet of building area. Three of the comparables have a fireplace. These comparables had improvement assessments that ranged from \$72,343 to \$74,290 or from \$33.35 to \$34.25 per square foot of living area. The subject's improvement assessment of \$72,512 or \$33.43 per square foot of living area falls within the range established by the best comparables in this record.

Based on this record the Board finds the appellant did not demonstrate with clear and convincing evidence that the subject's improvement was inequitably assessed and a reduction in the subject's assessment is not justified.

The constitutional provision for uniformity of taxation and valuation does not require mathematical equality. The requirement is satisfied if the intent is evident to adjust the taxation burden with a reasonable degree of uniformity and if such is the effect of the statute enacted by the General Assembly establishing the method of assessing real property in its general operation. A practical uniformity, rather than an absolute one, is the test. Apex Motor Fuel Co. v. Barrett, 20 Ill. 2d 395 (1960). Although the comparables presented by the parties disclosed that properties located in the same area are not assessed at identical levels, all that the constitution requires is a practical uniformity which appears to exist on the basis of the evidence. For the foregoing reasons, the Board finds that the appellant has not proven by clear and convincing evidence that the subject property is inequitably assessed.

Therefore, the Property Tax Appeal Board finds that the subject's assessment as established by the board of review is correct and no 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.

Chairman

K. L. Fan

Member

DR

Member

Mark Albino

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: September 18, 2015

A. Portol

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.