



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

APPELLANT: Peter & Lorraine Wirtz
DOCKET NO.: 13-01045.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 04-10-120-018

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Peter & Lorraine Wirtz, the appellants; 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: \$ 19,496
IMPR.: \$ 55,064
TOTAL: \$ 74,560

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 one-story frame dwelling that was built in 1990. The dwelling contains 1,827 square feet of living area. Features include an unfinished basement, central air conditioning, a fireplace and a 528 square foot attached

garage. The subject property is located in Benton Township, Lake County, Illinois.

The appellants submitted evidence before the Property Tax Appeal Board claiming assessment inequity as the basis of the appeal. The subject's land assessment was not challenged. In support of the inequity claim, the appellants submitted an analysis of six suggested comparables located in close proximity to the subject. The comparables had varying degrees of similarity when compared to the subject in design, size, age, and features. The comparables had improvement assessments ranging from \$33,208 to \$43,008 or from \$17.06 to \$24.00 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence, the appellants requested a reduction in the subject's improvement assessment.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" wherein the subject's final assessment of \$74,560 was disclosed. The subject property has an improvement assessment of \$55,064 or \$30.14 per square foot of living area.

In support of the subject's assessment, the board of review submitted an analysis of six suggested comparables located in close proximity to the subject. The comparables had varying degrees of similarity when compared to the subject in design, size, age, and features. The comparables had improvement assessments ranging from \$56,107 to \$71,869 or from \$29.49 to \$38.47 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence, the board of review requested confirmation of the subject's assessment.

Conclusion of Law

The taxpayers contend 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 appellants did not meet this burden of proof and no reduction in the subject's assessment is warranted.

The parties submitted descriptions and assessment data for 12 suggested assessment comparables for the Board's consideration.

The Board gave less weight to comparables #1, #3 and #5 submitted by the appellants and comparables #3 through #6 submitted by the board of review due to older age and/or larger dwelling size when compared to the subject. The Board finds comparables #2, #4 and #6 submitted by the appellants and comparables #1 and #2 submitted by the board of review were more similar to the subject in location, design, age, size and features. They have improvement assessments ranging from \$33,208 to \$71,869 or from \$19.38 to \$38.47 per square foot of living area. The subject property has an improvement assessment of \$55,064 or \$30.14 per square foot of living area, which falls within the range established by the most similar assessment comparables contained in this record.

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 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. Thus, the Board finds that the appellants have not proven by clear and convincing evidence that the subject's assessment was inequitable. 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

Klaus Albrecht

Member

Member

JR

Jerry White

Member

Acting Member

Robert Steffen

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: November 20, 2015

A. Proctor

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.