



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

APPELLANT: Joe Varanauski, Sr.
DOCKET NO.: 13-21168.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 28-34-205-015-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Joe Varanauski, Sr., the appellant(s), by attorney Timothy E. Moran, of Schmidt Salzman & Moran, 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: \$ 2,790
IMPR.: \$ 6,276
TOTAL: \$ 9,066

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 16-160 of the Property Tax Code (35 ILCS 200/16-160) challenging the assessment for the 2013 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 frame construction with 1,573 square feet of living area. The dwelling is 40 years old. Features of the home include a full unfinished basement, central air conditioning, and a two-car garage. The property has a 9,300 square foot site, and is located in Hazel Crest, Bremen Township, Cook County. The subject is classified as a class 2-07 property under the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance. No evidence was submitted as to whether the subject was owner-occupied.

The appellant contends assessment inequity as the basis of the appeal. In support of this argument, the appellant submitted information on five equity comparables.

The appellant also contends overvaluation as the basis of the appeal. In support of this argument the appellant submitted evidence disclosing the subject property was purchased on December 14, 2011 for a price of \$50,000. 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 \$9,066. The subject property has an improvement assessment of \$6,276, or \$3.99 per square foot of living area. The subject's assessment reflects a market value of \$90,660, or \$57.64 per square foot of living area, including land, when applying the 2013 statutory level of assessment for class 2 property of 10.00% under the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance.

In support of its contention of the correct assessment, the board of review submitted information on four equity comparables. The board of review's evidence also states that the subject was purchased in December 2011 for \$50,000.

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 only evidence submitted in support of the sale of the subject in December 2011 for \$50,000 was a settlement statement. The questions in Section IV – Recent Sale Data of the Board's residential appeal form were mostly left unanswered. Thus, there is no evidence to show whether this sale was an arm's-length transaction. The Board finds that the settlement statement is not enough to prove that the subject is overvalued by a preponderance of the evidence. The Board further finds that it could not reduce the subject's assessment based on its recent sale unless that sale was an arm's-length transaction, and there was no evidence submitted to show as such. Therefore, the Board finds that the subject is not overvalued, and a reduction is not warranted.

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 based on the appellant's market value argument.

The Board finds the best evidence of assessment equity to be appellant comparables #1, #2, #3, #4, and #5, and board of review comparables #1, #2, #3, and #4. These comparables had

improvement assessments that ranged from \$3.03 to \$4.13 per square foot of living area. The subject's assessment of \$3.99 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 based on the appellant's equity argument.

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: _____

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: July 22, 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.