



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

APPELLANT: SRP Sub, LLC
DOCKET NO.: 13-32077.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 31-14-406-006-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are SRP Sub, LLC, the appellant(s), by attorney Abby L. Strauss, of Schiller Strauss & Lavin PC 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: \$6,825
IMPR.: \$7,932
TOTAL: \$14,757

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 finds that it has jurisdiction over the parties and the subject matter of the appeal.

Findings of Fact

The subject property is a 43 year-old, multi-level dwelling of frame and masonry construction containing 1,728 square feet of living area. Features of the home include a partial finished basement, central air conditioning, a fireplace and a two-car garage. The property has a 21,000 square foot site and is located in Rich Township, Cook County. The property is a Class 2 property under the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance.

The appellant's appeal is based on overvaluation. In support of this argument, the appellant submitted a settlement statement disclosing the subject property was purchased on November 7, 2013 for a price of \$110,000, or \$63.66 per square foot of living area including land, in an all-cash transaction. The appellant also submitted the Real Estate Transfer Tax Declaration disclosing the subject was sold as "short sale" property; the Real Estate Contract disclosing the subject was sold in an "as is" condition; a Multiple Listing Service listing information sheet

disclosing the subject was a "Short Sale;" and information in Section IV–Recent Sale Data of the Residential Appeal that the subject was not sold as a transfer between related parties, was advertised and sold through a realtor, but that the subject was sold in settlement of a contract for deed. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested a reduction in the subject's assessment to reflect the purchase price when using the 2013 level of assessment of 10.00% for Class 2 property under the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" disclosing the total assessment for the subject of \$14,757. The subject's assessment reflects a market value of \$147,570 or \$85.40 per square foot of living area when using the 2013 level of assessment of 10.00% for Class 2 property 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 suggested comparable sales. The board of review also submitted a brief arguing the subject was sold as a foreclosure and, therefore, not at fair cash value. The board of review appended to its brief a print-out from the Cook County Recorder of Deeds website, commonly known as a "deed trail," disclosing: 1) a *lis pendens* and foreclosure notice recorded by HSBC Mortgage Services, Incorporated against John Moore III; 2) a Warranty Deed conveyed by John Moore III to the appellant; and 3) a Release conveyed by HSBC Mortgage Services, Incorporated to grantee John Moore III.

In rebuttal, the appellant argued that the comparables submitted as evidence by the board of review should be given diminished weight because they were dissimilar to the subject in 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 has not met this burden of proof and a reduction in the subject's assessment is not warranted.

In addressing the appellant's market value argument, the Board finds that the sale of the subject in November 2013 for \$110,000 is a "compulsory sale." The appellant's and board of review's evidence disclosed the subject's sale was a short 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.

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., 961 N.E. 2d 794, 802 (2d Dist. 2011) (citing Chrysler Corp. v. Ill. Prop. Tax Appeal Bd., 69 Ill. App. 3d 207, 211 (2d Dist. 1979)).

However, when there was a recent sale of the subject, and that sale was compulsory, 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 appellant's evidence did not dispute that the sale was a compulsory sale. The appellant did not submit sales comparables to show that the sale of the subject in November 2013 for \$110,000 was at its fair cash value. Moreover, the board of review submitted sale comparables that contained property characteristics similar to the subject's. The Board finds the best evidence of market value to be board of review comparable sales #1, #3 and #4. These comparables sold for prices ranging from \$96.40 to \$131.68 per square foot of living area, including land. The subject's assessment reflects a market value of \$85.40 per square foot of living area including land, which is below the range established by the best comparable sales in this record. The subject's sale price of \$110,000, or \$63.66 per square foot of living area including land, is also below the range of the best comparable sales in this record. Based on this evidence, the Board finds a reduction in the subject's assessment is not justified.

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: January 27, 2017



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.