



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

APPELLANT: Sunil Mehra
DOCKET NO.: 13-36174.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 14-06-101-029-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Sunil Mehra, the appellant, by attorney Stephanie Park, of Park & Longstreet, P.C. in Rolling Meadows; 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: \$ 9,600
IMPR.: \$24,757
TOTAL: \$34,357

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 16-185 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 90-year-old, two-story, two-unit residential building of masonry construction with 3,064 square feet of building area. Features of the building include a full basement and a two-car garage. The property has a 4,000 square foot site and is located in Lakeview Township, Cook County. The subject is classified as 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 evidence disclosing the subject property was purchased on January 27, 2010 for a price of \$205,000 or \$66.91 per square foot of building area. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested a reduction in the subject's assessment to 10% of the sale price.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" disclosing the total assessment for the subject of \$34,357. The subject's assessment reflects a market value of \$343,570 or \$112.13 per square foot of building area, land included, when using the 2013 level of assessments for class 2 property of 10% 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 equity comparables and four sales comparables. In addition, the board of review submitted a brief arguing that the subject's 2010 sale was compulsory in nature and not reflective of the market. In support of this proposition, the board of review submitted the deed trail of the subject along with an unpublished decision of the Appellate Court of Illinois.

At hearing, appellant's attorney reiterated the market value argument based on the subject's 2010 sale. Appellant's attorney also argued that the board of review's brief should be stricken because it is overly broad. In addition, appellant's attorney argued that the board of review's brief cited an unpublished decision which is prohibited by Supreme Court Rule 23. Appellant's attorney also argued that none of the cases cited in the board of review's brief stand for the proposition that a compulsory sale should not be used alone to prove market value. He cited to prior PTAB published decisions where the Board found a compulsory sale to be the best evidence of market value. Finally, appellant's attorney cited prior PTAB decisions for the proposition that the mere submission of sales comparables by the board of review is insufficient to contest the arm's length nature of the subject's sale.

The board of review argued the subject's sale was compulsory and not reflective of the market. The board of review also argued that their four suggested comparable sales support the subject's assessment.

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 Board gave no weight to appellant attorney's argument that the board of review's entire brief should be stricken for lack of specificity or a single citation of an unpublished decision. The Board further finds that the board of review did not merely submit sales comparables, but also submitted a brief asserting that the subject sale was compulsory.

In determining the fair market value of the subject property, the Board looks to the evidence presented by the parties. Based on the deed trail, the recent sale is found to be a compulsory 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.

35 ILCS 200/1-23. 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.

Board of Educ. of Meridian Community Unit School Dist. No. 223 v. Illinois Property Tax Appeal Board, 961 N.E.2d 794, 802, 356 Ill.Dec. 405, 413 (2d Dist. 2011) (citing Chrysler Corp. v. Illinois Property Tax Appeal Board, 69 Ill.App.3d 207, 211, 387 N.E.2d 351 (2d Dist. 1979)).

However, the Illinois General Assembly recently provided very clear guidance for the Board with regards to compulsory sales. Section 16-183 of the Illinois Property Tax Code states as follows:

The Property Tax Appeal Board shall consider compulsory sales of comparable properties for the purpose of revising and correcting assessments, including those compulsory sales of comparable properties submitted by the taxpayer.

35 ILCS 200/16-183. Therefore, the Board is statutorily required to consider the compulsory sales of comparable properties which were submitted by the parties. In considering the compulsory sale of the subject property, the Board looks to both the appellant's evidence and the board of review's comparables. The Board finds that the appellant failed to submit any comparable properties and the board of review submitted four comparable properties ranging from \$112.57 to \$213.38 per square foot. The Board finds that the subject's 2010 sale, for \$66.91 per square foot, falls substantially below the range of best comparables in the record. Therefore, the Board finds the subject's 2010 sale is not reflective of the market value. Conversely, the subject's assessed value of \$112.13 reflects a market value that is just slightly below the range and 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. Pursuant to Section 1910.50(d) of the rules of the Property Tax Appeal Board (86 Ill.Admin.Code §1910.50(d)) the proceeding before the Property Tax Appeal Board is terminated when the decision is rendered. The Property Tax Appeal Board does not require any motion or request for reconsideration.

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: October 15, 2019



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 or years of the same general assessment period, as provided in Sections 9-125 through 9-225, 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 such subsequent year or years 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 OR YEARS. A separate petition and evidence must be filed for each of the remaining years of the general assessment period.

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.

PARTIES OF RECORD

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