



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

APPELLANT: Coy and Bonita Ralston  
DOCKET NO.: 14-03393.001-R-1  
PARCEL NO.: 34-10.0-103-033

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Coy and Bonita Ralston, the appellants, and the Sangamon County Board of Review.

Based on the facts and exhibits presented, the Property Tax Appeal Board hereby finds a reduction in the assessment of the property as established by the **Sangamon** County Board of Review is warranted. The correct assessed valuation of the property is:

**LAND:** \$2,522  
**IMPR.:** \$0  
**TOTAL:** \$2,522

Subject only to the State multiplier as applicable.

**Statement of Jurisdiction**

The appellants timely filed the appeal from a decision of the Sangamon County Board of Review pursuant to section 16-160 of the Property Tax Code (35 ILCS 200/16-160) challenging the assessment for the 2014 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 vacant site with 7,200 square feet of land area. The property is located in Auburn, Auburn Township, Sangamon County.

The appellants' appeal is based on overvaluation. In support of this argument the appellants submitted evidence disclosing the subject property was purchased on November 30, 2011 for a price of \$1,700. Based on this evidence, the appellants requested a reduction in the subject's assessment to reflect the purchase price.

The evidence further revealed that the appellants filed the appeal directly to the Property Tax Appeal Board following

receipt of the notice of an equalization factor issued by the board of review. The board of review applied a township equalization factor of 1.034 increasing the subject's assessment from \$2,522 to \$2,608. The assessment notice submitted by the appellants indicated the subject's total assessment reflects a market value of \$7,824. Based on this evidence the appellants requested the subject's total assessment be reduced to reflect the purchase price.

The board of review did not submit its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" or any evidence in support of its assessed valuation of the subject property.

#### Conclusion of Law

The appellants contend 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 appellants met this burden of proof and a reduction in the subject's assessment is warranted.

The Board finds the only evidence of market value to be the purchase of the subject property on November 30, 2011 for a price of \$1,700. The subject's assessment reflects a market value of \$7,824, which is above the only evidence of market value in the record. However, the record indicates that the appellants appealed the assessment directly to the Property Tax Appeal Board based on notice of an equalization factor issued by the board of review. Due to the fact the appeal was filed after notification of an equalization factor, the amount of relief that the Property Tax Appeal Board may grant is limited. Section 1910.60(a) of the rules of the Property Tax Appeal Board states in part:

If the taxpayer or owner of property files a petition within 30 days after the postmark date of the written notice of the application of final, adopted township equalization factors, the relief the Property Tax Appeal Board may grant is limited to the amount of the increase caused by the application of the township equalization factor. 86 Ill.Admin.Code §1910.60(a).

Additionally, section 16-180 of the Property Tax Code (35 ILCS 200/16-180) provides in pertinent part:

Where no complaint has been made to the board of review of the county where the property is located and the appeal is based solely on the effect of an equalization factor assigned to all property or to a class of property by the board of review, the Property Tax Appeal Board may not grant a reduction in the

assessment greater than the amount that was added as the result of the equalization factor.

These provisions mean that where a taxpayer files an appeal directly to the Property Tax Appeal Board after notice of application of an equalization factor, the Board cannot grant an assessment reduction greater than the amount of increase caused by the equalization factor. Villa Retirement Apartments, Inc. v. Property Tax Appeal Board, 302 Ill.App.3d 745, 753 (4<sup>th</sup> Dist. 1999).

Furthermore, the board of review did not submit any evidence in support of its assessment of the subject property or to refute the appellants' evidence as required by Section 1910.40(a) of the rules of the Property Tax Appeal Board and finds the board of review to be in default pursuant to section 1910.69(a) of the rules of the Property Tax Appeal Board. (86 Ill.Admin.Code §1910.40(a) & §1910.69(a)).

Based on a review of the evidence contained in the record, the Property Tax Appeal Board finds a reduction in the assessment of the subject property is supported. However, the reduction is limited to the increase in the assessment caused by the application of the equalization factor.

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.

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Chairman



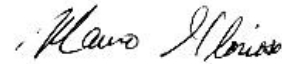
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Member



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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: March 18, 2016



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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.