



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

APPELLANT: Aaron Zaretsky  
DOCKET NO.: 14-21847.001-R-1 through 14-21847.002-R-1  
PARCEL NO.: See Below

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Aaron Zaretsky, the appellant(s), by attorney Scott Shudnow, of Shudnow & Shudnow, 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:

| <b>DOCKET NO</b> | <b>PARCEL NUMBER</b> | <b>LAND</b> | <b>IMPRVMT</b> | <b>TOTAL</b> |
|------------------|----------------------|-------------|----------------|--------------|
| 14-21847.001-R-1 | 25-28-304-024-0000   | 1,383       | 4,725          | \$6,108      |
| 14-21847.002-R-1 | 25-28-304-025-0000   | 1,665       | 0              | \$1,665      |

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 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 one-story dwelling of masonry construction with 945 square feet of living area. The dwelling is 84 years old. Features of the home include a full basement and a one-car garage. The property has a 3,075 square foot site and is located in Lake Township, Cook County. The subject is classified as a class 2-02 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 in a foreclosure sale on January 15, 2014 for a price of \$25,000, or \$26.46 per square foot of living area, including land. The appellant also submitted a settlement statement, a Multiple Listing Service printout, a copy of Public Act 096-1083, a copy of a Property Tax Appeal Board decision for two different

properties, and seven comparable sales. 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 \$7,773. The notes state, "Not arm's-length sale. Foreclosure." The subject's assessment reflects a market value of \$77,730 or \$82.25 per square foot of living area, land included, when using the 2014 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 comparable sales.

### **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 finds that the sale of the subject in January 2014 for a price of \$22,400 was a "compulsory sale" in the form of a foreclosure sale. A "compulsory sale" is defined as:

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. Bd. of Educ. of Meridian Cmty. Unit Sch. Dist. No. 223 v. Ill. Prop. Tax Appeal Bd., 2011 IL App (2d) 100068, ¶ 36 (citing Chrysler Corp. v. Ill. Prop. Tax Appeal Bd., 69 Ill.App.3d 207, 211 (2d Dist. 1979)).

However, when there is a recent sale of the subject, and that sale is a compulsory sale, 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 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."). Such evidence can include the descriptive and sales information for recently sold properties that are similar to the subject. See Id.

In this case, the board of review submitted four comparable sales while the appellant submitted seven comparable sales. The board finds the most similar comparables are the board of review's

comparables #1, #2, and #4. These comparables range in sale price from \$80.21 through \$97.40 per square foot of living area, including land. The subject's purchase price of \$25,000 reflects a value of \$26.45 per square foot of living area, including land, which is below the range of these comparables. In addition the subject's assessment of \$7,773 reflects a market value of \$82.25 per square foot of living area which is within the range of these comparables. The Board finds there is no evidence that the sale price of the subject is at its fair cash value. Accordingly, the Board finds the appellant did not meet the burden of proving by a preponderance of the evidence that the subject is overvalued and a reduction in the subject's assessment is not 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.

*Mario Alvares*

Chairman

*K. L. Farn*

Member

*JR*

Member

*Robert J. Steffen*

Member

*Dane DeKinis*

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: March 24, 2017

*A. Portol*

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.