



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

APPELLANT: Lisa Spentzos
DOCKET NO.: 14-26287.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 02-24-103-025-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Lisa Spentzos, the appellant(s), by attorney Joanne Elliott, of Elliott & Associates, P.C. in Des Plaines; 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: \$8,000
IMPR.: \$19,915
TOTAL: \$27,915

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 is a 48 year-old, one-story dwelling of masonry construction containing 1,964 square feet of living area. Features of the home include a full unfinished basement, a fireplace and a two-car garage. The property has a 20,000 square foot site and is located in Palatine 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 from the Federal National Mortgage Association (hereinafter, "Fannie Mae") on June 30, 2014 for the price of \$195,100 in an all-cash transaction. The appellant also submitted the sales contract disclosing the subject was sold in an "as is" condition; a Special Warranty Deed; two Affidavits; five pages of emails regarding the negotiations between the seller and the buyer; a Multiple Listing Service

information sheet disclosing the subject was sold as "REO/Lender Owned" property; 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, and was sold as "REO sale" property. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested a reduction in the subject's assessment to reflect the purchase price when using the 2014 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 \$27,915. The subject's assessment reflects a market value of \$279,150 or \$142.13 per square foot of living area when using the 2014 level of assessment of 10.00% for Class 2 property under the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance. The subject's sale price of \$195,100 reflects a market value of \$99.34 per square foot of living area including land. 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 that the subject was sold in settlement of a foreclosure and was, therefore, not sold for fair cash value in an arm's-length transaction. Appended to the brief was a print-out from the Cook County Recorder of Deeds website, commonly known as a "deed trail." It disclosed: 1) a *lis pendens* and notice of foreclosure were recorded; 2) a Judicial Sale Deed was conveyed Judicial Sales Corporation to Fannie Mae; and 3) a Special Warranty Deed was conveyed by grantor Fannie Mae to grantee Louis Spentzos, the appellant herein.

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 June 2014 for \$195,100 was not at arm's-length and is a "compulsory sale." Both the board of review's evidence and the appellant's MLS information sheet disclosed the subject was sold as short sale property. 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.

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 did not submit additional evidence, but the board of review submitted four sale comparables. The Board finds the best evidence of market value to be the board of review's comparable sales. These comparables sold for prices ranging from \$144.74 to \$189.19 per square foot of living area, including land. The subject's assessment reflects a market value of \$142.13 per square foot of living area including land, which is below the range established by the best comparable sales in this record. The board of review's sale comparables also establish that the subject's purchase price at \$99.34 per square foot of living area including land was below its fair cash value. Therefore, the Board finds that the subject is not overvalued and holds that a reduction 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.



Chairman



Member



Member



Acting 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: _____

April 21, 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.