



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

APPELLANT: Rami Mornel
DOCKET NO.: 14-32936.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 30-19-211-040-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Rami Mornel, 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: \$1,813
IMPR.: \$5,048
TOTAL: \$6,861

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, single-family home of frame and masonry construction with 1,147 square feet of living area. The dwelling was constructed in 1961. The property has a 5,580 square foot site and is located in Calumet City, Thornton Township, Cook County.

The appellant contends overvaluation as the basis of the appeal. In support of this argument, the appellant submitted evidence showing that the subject was sold to the appellant by US Bank National Association and National Banking Association on July 6, 2012 for \$26,500. This evidence included the settlement statement, real estate contract, copy of earnest money deposit, and listing sheet. The appellant's pleadings regarding Section IV- Recent Sale Data confirmed: the closing date and sale price; that the parties to the transaction were not related; that the property was sold in settlement of a contract for deed; and that the subject was advertised for sale

using a realtor. Lastly, the listing sheet states that the subject was conveyed to the seller/bank via a foreclosure deed and the real estate contract states that the subject was a foreclosure property. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested a reduction in the subject's assessment.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" disclosing the total assessment for the subject of \$6,861. The subject's assessment reflects a market value of \$68,610 or \$59.82 per square foot of living area, including land when applying a 10% level of assessment as determined by the Cook County Classification Ordinance.

In support of the assessment, the board of review submitted four sales comparables. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested a reduction in the subject's assessment.

In rebuttal, the appellant's attorney states that the only credible evidence as to subject's market value is the data submitted by the appellant.

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).

In addressing the appellant's market value argument, the Board finds that the sale of the subject in July 2012 for \$26,500 or \$23.10 per square feet of living area is a "compulsory sale." The listing sheet disclosed the foreclosing bank, US Bank National Association and National Banking Association, conveyed title to the appellant and the real estate contract disclosed the subject was a foreclosure 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 the 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 sale of comparable properties submitted by the parties to revise and/or correct the subject's assessment.

The evidence submitted disclosed the subject's sale was compulsory. In determining the fair market value of the subject property, the Board looks to the evidence presented by the parties. The Board finds the board of review's comparables set the range of market value for the subject. The appellant did not submit any comparables. The board of review's comparables sold from July 2012 to June 2013 for prices ranging from \$47.52 to \$76.72 per square foot of living area, including land. The subject's assessment reflects a market value of \$59.82 per square foot of living area, including land, which is within the range established by the best comparable sales in this record. Moreover, the subject's sale price of \$26,500 or \$23.10 per square foot of living area, including land is drastically below the range established by the market data.

Accordingly, in determining the fair market value of the subject property, the Board finds that the appellant did not submit sufficient evidence to show the subject was overvalued. Therefore, the Board finds that the appellant has not met its burden by a preponderance of the evidence and that the subject does not warrant a reduction based upon the market data submitted into evidence.

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



Acting 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: July 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.