



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

APPELLANT: Cristina Scurtu
DOCKET NO.: 15-30174.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 03-22-303-002-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Cristina Scurtu, 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 **A Reduction** 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: \$5,618
IMPR.: \$16,382
TOTAL: \$22,000

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 2015 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 two-story dwelling of frame exterior construction with 1,866 square feet of living area. The dwelling is approximately 75 years old. Features of the home include a full unfinished basement and a two-car detached garage. The property has a 32,104 square foot site and is located in Prospect Heights, Wheeling Township, Cook County. The subject is classified as a class 2-05 property under the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance.

The appellant contends overvaluation as the basis of the appeal. In support of this argument the appellant disclosed the subject sold July 31, 2015 for a price of \$220,000 and had been advertised for sale for one year as set forth in Section IV-Recent Sale Data of the appeal petition. To document the sale, the appellant submitted a copy of the Settlement Statement revealing the amount of Broker's Fees paid at settlement.

In support of the overvaluation argument, the appellant also submitted three comparable sales located within the same neighborhood assessment code as the subject property. The comparables consist of two-story dwellings that range in age from 72 to 118 years old. The dwellings had features with varying degrees of similarity when compared to the subject. The dwellings range in size from 1,670 to 1,811 square feet of living area and are situated on sites ranging from 20,000 to 28,700 square feet of land area. The comparables sold from July 2013 to March 2015 for prices ranging from \$100,000 to \$292,500 or from \$58.38 to \$161.51 per square foot of living area including land. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested the total assessment be reduced to \$10,890.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" disclosing the total assessment for the subject of \$32,582. The subject's assessment reflects a market value of \$325,820 or \$174.61 per square foot of living area, land included, when using the level of assessments for class 2 property of 10% under the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance. In support of the subject's assessment, the board of review submitted information on three equity comparables¹ and one sales comparable located within the same neighborhood assessment code as the subject property. Based on this evidence, the board of review requested confirmation of the subject's assessment.

In written rebuttal, counsel for the appellant argued the board of review's comparables should be given no weight because the comparables lacked sales data.

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

The Board finds the best evidence of market value to be the purchase of the subject property in July 2015 for a price of \$220,000. The appellant provided evidence demonstrating the sale had the elements of an arm's length transaction. The appellant completed Section IV - Recent Sale Data of the appeal disclosing the parties to the transaction were not related. In further support of the transaction the appellant submitted a copy of the Settlement Statement revealing the amount of Broker's Fees paid at settlement. The Board finds the board of review did not present any evidence to challenge the arm's length nature of the transaction or to refute the contention that the purchase price was reflective of market value. The Board gave less weight to the appellant's comparables #2 and #3 and the board of review's comparable #1 due to their 2012 and 2013 sale dates, which are not proximate in time to the January 1, 2015 assessment date. The Board gave less weight to the remaining comparable submitted by the appellant due to the fact that one comparable sale does not overcome the subject's arm's length transaction. Based on this record

¹ The board of review included a grid analysis of three equity comparables which will not be further addressed on this record as the Board finds equity data is not responsive to the appellant's market value argument.

the Board finds the subject's assessment is not reflective of market value and a reduction in the subject's assessment is 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: May 15, 2018



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

AGENCY

State of Illinois
Property Tax Appeal Board
William G. Stratton Building, Room 402
401 South Spring Street
Springfield, IL 62706-4001

APPELLANT

Cristina Scurtu, by attorney:
Stephanie Park
Park & Longstreet, P.C.
2775 Algonquin Road
Suite 270
Rolling Meadows, IL 60008

COUNTY

Cook County Board of Review
County Building, Room 601
118 North Clark Street
Chicago, IL 60602