



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

APPELLANT: FTS Ventures, LLC  
DOCKET NO.: 15-30516.001-R-1  
PARCEL NO.: 20-26-206-013-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are FTS Ventures, LLC, the appellant, 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:** \$3,125  
**IMPR.:** \$13,120  
**TOTAL:** \$16,245

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, multi-family dwelling of masonry construction. The dwelling is approximately 107 years old and has 2,364 square feet of living area. Features of the dwelling include two apartment units, a full unfinished basement and a one-car garage. The property has a 3,125-square foot site and is located in Chicago, Hyde Park Township, Cook County. The subject is classified as a class 2-11 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 on October 5, 2016, for a price of \$37,000. In Section IV – Recent Sale Data of the residential appeal form, the appellant stated the property was purchased from the Federal National Mortgage Association; the parties to the transaction were not related; the property was sold using a realtor; and the property had been

advertised for sale with a multiple listing service (MLS). The appellant did not answer the question how long the subject had been exposed to the market. To document the transaction, the appellant submitted a copy of the subject's settlement statement, which revealed that a commission had been paid to a realty firm. 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 \$16,245. The subject's assessment reflects a market value of \$159,892 or \$67.64 per square foot of living area, land included, when using the 2015 three-year average median level of assessment for class 2 property of 10.16% under the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance as determined by the Illinois Department of Revenue.

In support of its contention of the correct assessment, the board of review submitted information on four comparable sales that sold from August 2012 to March 2015 for prices that ranged from \$170,000 to \$214,000 or from \$63.72 to \$84.92 per square foot of living area, land included. The comparables have the same assigned neighborhood and classification codes as the subject. Their sites range from 3,098 to 4,687 square feet of land area. The comparables are improved with two-story, multi-family dwellings of masonry construction. The dwellings range in age from 96 to 112 years old and contain from 2,520 to 2,668 square feet of living area. The comparables have full basements, two of which have finished area; one comparable has two fireplaces; and two comparables have two-car garages. Based on this evidence, the board of review requested confirmation of the subject's assessment.

The appellant's attorney submitted a rebuttal, wherein counsel stated that the subject property sold at its listing price.

### **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 considered the October 2016 sale of the subject property relied on by the appellant and the four comparable sales submitted by the board of review. The Board gave less weight to the sale of the subject property. The Board finds the subject property sold 21 months after the January 1, 2015 assessment date. Moreover, the appellant never established how long the subject property had been exposed to the open market. The Board also gave less weight to board of review comparable #4. This property sold in August 2012, which was over 28 months prior to the assessment date at issue.

The Board finds the best evidence of market value in the record to be board of review comparables #1 through #3. These properties sold more proximate to the assessment date and were also very similar to the subject in location, story height, exterior construction, age, living

area and foundation. Board of review comparables #1 through #3 sold from July 2014 to March 2015 for prices that ranged from \$63.72 to \$78.53 per square foot of living area, land included. The Board finds these sales undermine the appellant's claim that the subject's sale price was reflective of market value. The subject's assessment reflects a market value of \$67.64 per square foot of living area, land included, which is within the range of market values of the best comparable sales in the record on a square foot basis. Based on this evidence, the Board finds 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. 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: June 19, 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

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