



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

APPELLANT: Anil Mahajan  
DOCKET NO.: 16-22640.001-R-1  
PARCEL NO.: 28-35-207-023-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Anil Mahajan, the appellant(s), by attorney Jessica Hill-Magiera, Attorney at Law in Lake Zurich; 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:** \$1,815  
**IMPR.:** \$6,019  
**TOTAL:** \$7,834

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 2016 tax year. The Property Tax Appeal Board (the "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 frame construction with 1,036 square feet of living area. The dwelling is 37 years old. The property has a 7,260 square foot site and is located in Bremen Township, Cook County. The subject is classified as a class 2-03 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 pursuant to a foreclosure on June 18, 2014 for a price of \$30,101, or \$29.06 per square foot, including land, from the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation. The property was sold using a Realtor and the parties to the transaction were unrelated. The property was listed on the market for 99 days. In support of this argument the appellant submitted information on six sale comparables. These comparables sold between January 2015 and February 2016 for prices ranging from \$22.46 to \$63.87 per square

foot of living area, including land. A second grid reflecting adjustments to the comparables was also submitted. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested a reduction in the subject's assessment to reflect 10% of the purchase price.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" disclosing the total assessment for the subject of \$7,834. The subject's assessment reflects a market value of \$78,340, or \$75.62 per square foot, including land, when applying the 10% level of assessment as determined by the Cook County Real Property Classification Ordinance.

In support of its contention of the correct assessment, the board of review submitted information on four equity comparables, all of which reflected sale data. They sold from March 2015 to December 2015 for sale prices ranging from \$103.36 to \$123.34 per square foot, including land.

In rebuttal, the appellant argued that the board of review's comparables were not similar to the subject for various reasons. The appellant also requests that the Board use the median sale price per square foot of the best comparables in the record in determining whether the subject is overvalued.

At hearing, both parties rested on their written submissions.

### **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 the appellant failed to lay a foundation for the adjustments in the Property Equalization Values grid submitted and, therefore, gives the adjustments no weight.

The Board also rejects the appellant's argument that the Board should use the median sale price per square foot of the best comparables in the record in ascertaining whether the subject is overvalued. First, this argument was only raised during rebuttal, and, therefore, the board of review was not granted an opportunity to challenge this argument. As such, this argument was not made timely. 86 Ill.Admin.Code §1910.66(c) ("Rebuttal evidence shall not consist of new evidence such as an appraisal or newly discovered comparable properties. A party to the appeal shall be precluded from submitting its own case in chief in the guise of rebuttal evidence."). Second, assuming *arguendo* that this argument was made timely, the appellant offers no evidence or testimony to support this premise. Instead, the appellant has simply made conclusory statements that are not supported by the record and are not law. For example, the appellant states, "Appellant submits that using a median price/SF analysis is not only more accurate, but more importantly is consistent with and not contrary to the preponderance of the evidence standard..." Arguments regarding the proper method of valuation are legal arguments. Kankakee Cnty. Bd. of Review v. Prop. Tax Appeal. Bd., 131 Ill.2d 1, 14-15 (1989); Kankakee Cnty. Bd. of Review v. Prop. Tax Appeal. Bd., 226 Ill.2d 36, 51 (2007); Bd. of Review of

County of Alexander v. Prop. Tax Appeal Bd., 304 Ill.App.3d 535, 538 (5th Dist. 1999). The appellant has not cited any legal authority in support of this legal argument. Indeed, the appellant has not cited any authority, legal or otherwise, in support of this argument. In short, the appellant seeks to have the Board use a method of valuation that has no support in the record, no basis in law, and was not raised timely. The Board declines the invitation, and gives this argument no weight.

The Board also finds that the sale of the subject in June 2014 for \$30,101 was a "compulsory sale" through the documentation submitted by the parties. 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.

Additionally, 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 foreclosure, 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. The Board finds the best evidence of market value to be the appellant's comparable(s) #1 through #6, as well as the board of review's comparable(s) #1 through #4. These comparables sold for prices ranging from \$22.46 to \$123.34 per square foot of living area, including land. The subject's assessment reflects a market value of \$75.62 per square foot of living area, including land, which is within the range established by the best comparables in this record. Based on this record, the Board finds a reduction in the subject's assessment is not 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.

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Chairman



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Member

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Member



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Member

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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 18, 2019



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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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