



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

APPELLANT: BCH5640, LLC
DOCKET NO.: 16-27496.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 14-05-410-013-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are BCH5640, LLC, the appellant(s), by attorney Alan M. Didesch, of CH Ventures, LLC in Wilmette; 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: \$ 36,000
IMPR.: \$ 101,760
TOTAL: \$ 137,760

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 consists of a two-story dwelling of masonry construction with 6,028 square feet of living area. The dwelling is 105 years old. Features of the home include a full unfinished basement, a fireplace, and a two-car garage. The property has a 9,000 square foot site, and is located in Chicago, Lake View Township, Cook County. The subject is classified as a class 2-09 property under the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance. The subject is owned by a business entity, and, therefore, it is not owner occupied.

The appellant contends overvaluation as the basis of the appeal. In support of this argument the appellant submitted evidence disclosing the subject property was purchased on August 5, 2015 for a price of \$655,000, or \$108.66 per square foot of living area, including land. The PTAX-203 submitted by the appellant states that the sale of the subject was pursuant to a short

sale. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested a reduction in the subject's assessment to \$65,500.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" disclosing the total assessment for the subject of \$128,752. The subject's assessment reflects a market value of \$1,287,520, or \$213.59 per square foot of living area, including land, when applying the 2016 statutory level of assessment for class 2 property of 10.00% under the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance.

In support of its contention of the correct assessment, the board of review submitted two equity comparables and two sale comparables.¹ These comparables sold between October 2013 and November 2015 for \$1,387,000 to \$1,985,000, or \$261.30 to \$357.85 per square foot of living area, including land. The board of review's evidence also states that the subject was purchased in August 2015 for \$655,000.

In rebuttal, the appellant argued that the board of review's comparables were not similar to the subject for various reasons.

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 that the sale of the subject in August 2015 for \$655,000 was a "compulsory 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. The Board finds that the sale of the subject is a compulsory sale, in the form of a short sale, based on the PTAX-203 form submitted by the appellant, which states that the sale of the subject was pursuant to a short sale. See id.

Real property in Illinois must be assessed at its fair cash value, which can only be estimated absent any compulsion on either party.

¹ The Board notes that the board of review's grid sheet lists three comparables; however, comparable #1 is the subject property. Therefore, the Board will disregard comparable #1. For ease of reference, the Board will refer to the remaining two comparables as comparables #2 and #3 in this Final Administrative Decision.

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., 2012 IL App (2d) 100068, ¶ 36 (citing Chrysler Corp. v. Ill. Prop. Tax Appeal Bd., 69 Ill.App.3d 207, 211 (2d Dist. 1979)).

In Calumet Transfer LLC v. Property Tax Appeal, Bd., 401 Ill.App.3d 652 (1st Dist. 2010), the court upheld the Board's decision, wherein the Board allowed the intervenor to challenge the arm's-length nature of the sale of the property, through the submission of sale comparables, pursuant to Section 1910.65(c)(4) of the Official Rules of the Property Tax Appeal Board. Calumet Transfer, 401 Ill.App.3d at 655-56; 86 Ill.Admin.Code § 1910.65(c)(4) (“[p]roof of the market value of the subject property may consist of the following: 4) documentation of not fewer than three recent sales of suggested comparable properties together with documentation of the similarity, proximity and lack of distinguishing characteristics of the sales comparables to the subject property.”). Like the board of review here, the intervenor in Calumet Transfer argued that the seller was under duress to sell the property, and therefore, the purchase price was below fair market value as evidenced by the comparable sales. Id. at 656. The court stated that, “There is no provision in the Property Tax Code that restricts [the Board's] authority to consider such evidence. To the contrary, paragraph (4) of section 1910.65(c) specifically allows evidence of comparable property sales to prove fair market value.” Id.

In the instant appeal, the board of review submitted information on two comparable sales. The Board finds board of review comparables #2 and #3 to be most similar to the subject. These comparables sold for prices ranging from \$261.30 to \$357.85 per square foot of living area, including land. The subject's sale price reflects a market value of \$108.66 per square foot of living area, including land, which is below the range established by the best comparables in this record. Moreover, the subject's current assessment reflects a market value of \$213.59 per square foot of living area, including land, which is also below this range. Therefore, the Board finds that the sale of the subject in August 2015 for \$655,000 was below the subject's fair market value. Since there is no other market value evidence proffered by the appellant, the Board finds that the appellant has not proven, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the subject is overvalued, and 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 16, 2020



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

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