



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

APPELLANT: Jin Xia
DOCKET NO.: 16-35858.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 04-10-112-012-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Jin Xia, the appellant(s), by attorney Noah J. Schmidt, of Schmidt Salzman & Moran, Ltd. 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: \$7,395
IMPR.: \$74,734
TOTAL: \$82,129

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 finds that it has jurisdiction over the parties and the subject matter of the appeal.

Findings of Fact

The subject property consists of an 8 year old, two-story, single-family dwelling of masonry construction with 2,925 square feet of living area. Features of the home include four and one-half baths, a full finished basement, and a two-car garage. The property has a 7,995 square foot site and is located in Northbrook, Northfield Township, Cook County.

The appellant contends assessment inequity as the basis of the appeal. In support of this argument, the appellant submitted information on five equity comparables. The appellant requested the subject's total assessment be reduced to \$43,000.

The appellant contends overvaluation as the basis of the appeal. In support of this argument, the appellant submitted evidence showing that the subject sold on January 1, 2016 for \$430,000. This evidence included copies of the real estate contract and real estate purchase addendum. The

real estate purchase addendum stated that the seller was Morgan Stanley Mortgage Capital Holdings LLC and that the "seller acquired the subject property through a foreclosure, deed in lieu of foreclosure, forfeiture, tax sale or similar process." The appellant based on the requested assessment per the pleadings requested that the Board apply the 2016 level of assessment for class 2 property under the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance of 10%. 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 \$82,129. The subject has a total improvement assessment of \$74,734 or \$25.55 per square foot of living area. The subject's assessment reflects a market value of \$821,290 or \$280.78 per square foot of living area, including land when applying the 2016 level of assessment for class 2 property under the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance of 10%. In support of the assessment, the board of review submitted four equity comparables and sale data for comparable #3.

Conclusion of Law

The taxpayer contends assessment inequity as the basis of the appeal. When unequal treatment in the assessment process is the basis of the appeal, the inequity of the assessments must be proved by clear and convincing evidence. 86 Ill.Admin.Code §1910.63(e). Proof of unequal treatment in the assessment process should consist of documentation of the assessments for the assessment year in question of not less than three comparable properties showing the similarity, proximity and lack of distinguishing characteristics of the assessment comparables to the subject property. 86 Ill.Admin.Code §1910.65(b). 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 best evidence of assessment equity to be the board of review's comparables. These comparables are similar in location, construction, stories, age, and size. These comparables had improvement assessments that ranged from \$24.46 to \$26.07 per square foot of living area. The subject's improvement assessment of \$25.55 per square foot of living area falls within the range established by the best comparables in this record. Based on this record, the Board finds the appellant did not demonstrate with clear and convincing evidence that the subject's improvement was inequitably assessed and a reduction in the subject's assessment is not justified.

The appellant also 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 January 2016 for \$430,000 is a "compulsory sale." The real estate purchase addendum disclosed the subject was sold by a financial institution which acquired title via foreclosure proceedings. 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 Board may consider market value evidence, such as sales of comparable properties or an appraisal submitted by the parties, to determine whether the subject was sold at fair cash value. 86 Ill.Admin.Code §1910.65(c)(4); See Calumet Transfer LLC v. Illinois Property Tax Appeal Board, 401 Ill.App.3d 652 (1st Dist. 2010). The appellant did not submit any sale comparables or other evidence to establish that the sale of the subject was for fair cash value. The appellant did not submit other evidence, such as comparable sale properties in the neighborhood or an appraisal, to show whether the purchase price was for fair cash value. The board of review only submitted one sale comparable. The appellant and the board of review did not submit "documentation of not fewer than three recent sales of suggested comparable properties..." 86 Ill.Admin.Code §1910.65(c)(4). The Board finds the board of review and the appellant did not submit a sufficient number of sale comparables to create a range for comparison. Therefore, the Board finds the appellant and the board of review failed to meet his burden and reduction is not warranted.

In determining the fair cash value of the subject property and all relevant factors, 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. 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

AGENCY

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

APPELLANT

Jin Xia, by attorney:
Noah J. Schmidt
Schmidt Salzman & Moran, Ltd.
111 West Washington Street
Suite 1300
Chicago, IL 60602

COUNTY

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