



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

APPELLANT: CSMA BLT, LLC
DOCKET NO.: 17-01057.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 04-28-121-006

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are CSMA BLT, LLC, the appellant, by attorney Abby L. Strauss, of Schiller Strauss & Lavin PC in Chicago; and the Lake 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 **Lake** County Board of Review is warranted. The correct assessed valuation of the property is:

LAND: \$4,612
IMPR.: \$30,162
TOTAL: \$34,774

Subject only to the State multiplier as applicable.

The appellant timely filed the appeal from a decision of the Lake County Board of Review pursuant to section 16-160 of the Property Tax Code (35 ILCS 200/16-160) challenging the assessment for the 2017 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 tri-level dwelling of vinyl siding exterior construction with 1,048 square feet of above grade living area. The dwelling was constructed in 1991. Features of the home include a 528 square foot finished lower level, central air conditioning and a 480 square foot garage. The property has a 7,344 square foot site and is located in Zion Township, Lake County.

The appellant contends assessment inequity with respect to the improvement as the basis of the appeal. In support of this argument, the appellant submitted information on five equity comparables located within .35 of a mile of the subject. The comparables are described as tri-level dwellings of wood, aluminum or vinyl siding exterior construction ranging in size from 994 to 1,096 square feet of above grade living area. The dwellings were built from 1959 to 1999. The comparables each have finished lower level and four comparables each have a garage ranging in size from 440 to 576 square feet of building area. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$16,282 to \$23,361 or from \$15.54 to \$21.31 per square

foot of above grade living area. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested a reduction in the subject's improvement assessment.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" disclosing the total assessment for the subject of \$34,774. The subject property has an improvement assessment of \$31,124 or \$29.70 per square foot of above grade living area.

In support of its contention of the correct assessment, the board of review submitted information on eight equity comparables located within .374 of a mile of the subject. The comparables are described as tri-level dwellings of vinyl, aluminum or wood siding exterior construction ranging in size from 1,004 to 1,152 square feet of above grade living area. The dwellings were constructed from 1992 to 1995. The comparables each feature a finished lower level and a garage ranging in size from 440 to 720 square feet of building area. Three comparables have central air conditioning and one comparable has a fireplace. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$29,346 to \$35,682 or from \$28.74 to \$31.52 per square foot of above grade living area. Based on this evidence, the board of review requested confirmation of the subject's assessment.

Conclusion of Law

The appellant 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 no reduction in the subject's assessment is warranted.

The parties submitted thirteen equity comparables for the Board's consideration. The Board gave less weight to the appellant's comparables for their lack of central air conditioning and/or dissimilar age when compared to the subject dwelling. The Board also gave less weight to board of review comparables ##1, #3, #4, #6 and #7 for their lack of central air conditioning when compared to the subject.

The Board finds the best evidence of assessment equity to be board of review comparables #2, #5 and #8. These comparables are more similar to the subject in location, dwelling size, design, age and features. The comparables had improvement assessments ranging from \$32,512 to \$35,682 or from \$30.88 to \$31.02 per square foot of above grade living area. The subject has an improvement assessment of \$31,124 or \$29.70 per square foot of above grade living area, which falls below the range established by the best comparables in the record.

The constitutional provision for uniformity of taxation and valuation does not require mathematical equality. The requirement is satisfied if the intent is evident to adjust the burden with a reasonable degree of uniformity and if such is the effect of the statute enacted by the General Assembly establishing the method of assessing real property in its general operation. A

practical uniformity, rather than an absolute one, is the test. Apex Motor Fuel Co. v. Barrett, 20 Ill.2d 395 (1960). Although the comparables presented by the parties disclosed that properties located in the same area are not assessed at identical levels, all that the constitution requires is a practical uniformity, which appears to exist on the basis of the evidence presented.

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 no 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: April 21, 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

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COUNTY

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