



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

APPELLANT: CSMA BLT, LLC
DOCKET NO.: 17-01119.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 08-20-209-016

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: \$6,056
IMPR.: \$20,664
TOTAL: \$26,720

Subject only to the State multiplier as applicable.

Statement of Jurisdiction

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 one-story dwelling of brick exterior construction with 1,348 square feet of living area. The dwelling was constructed in 1932. Features of the home include a full unfinished basement and a detached 216 square foot garage. The property has a 5,724 square foot site and is located in Waukegan, Waukegan Township, Lake County.

The appellant contends assessment inequity as the basis of the appeal challenging the improvement assessment; no dispute was raised concerning the land assessment. In support of this inequity argument, the appellant submitted information on six comparables located within .51 of a mile from the subject property. The comparables consist of one-story dwellings of wood siding exterior construction that were built in 1920 or 1925. The comparables range in size from 1,050 to 1,446 square feet of living area. Each comparable has a full unfinished basement. Five of the comparables have central air conditioning and comparable #6 has a 240 square foot

garage. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$14,090 to \$19,239 or from \$12.45 to \$13.51 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested a reduction in the subject's improvement assessment to \$13.28 per square foot of living area.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" disclosing the total assessment for the subject of \$26,720. The subject property has an improvement assessment of \$20,664 or \$15.33 per square foot of living area.

In response to the appellant's evidence, the Waukegan Township Assessor's Office submitted a memorandum noting that the six comparables presented by the appellant are of wood siding exterior construction rather than brick like the subject and five of the comparables lack a garage which is an amenity of the subject property. In addition, based upon information found on the internet, the subject property has been remodeled and has a partially finished basement.

In support of its contention of the correct assessment the board of review submitted information on eight equity comparables where the second set of comparables have been renumbered #5 through #8 for ease of reference. The comparables are located within .097 of a mile of the subject property. The comparables consist of one-story dwellings of brick exterior construction that were built between 1930 and 1940. The comparables range in size from 1,189 to 1,484 square feet of living area. Each comparable has a full unfinished basement. Comparable #7 has central air conditioning and comparable #4 has a fireplace. Each of the comparables has a garage ranging in size from 264 to 528 square feet of building area. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$19,475 to \$23,488 or from \$15.58 to \$17.23 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence, the board of review requested confirmation of the subject's assessment.

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 parties presented a total of fourteen equity comparables to support their respective positions before the Property Tax Appeal Board. The Board has given reduced weight to the appellant's comparables #1 through #5 due to differences in age and/or dwelling size when compared to the subject property.

The Board finds the best evidence of assessment equity to be appellant's comparable #6 along with the board of review comparables which are most similar to the subject in location, age, size and most features. These comparables had improvement assessments that ranged from \$19,239 to \$23,488 or from \$13.51 to \$17.23 per square foot of living area. The subject's improvement

assessment of \$20,664 or \$15.33 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 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 taxation 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. For the foregoing reasons, the Board finds that the appellant has not proven by clear and convincing evidence that the subject property is inequitably assessed. Therefore, the Property Tax Appeal Board finds that the subject's assessment as established by the board of review is correct and no reduction is 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: 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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