



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

APPELLANT: Stephen Westman
DOCKET NO.: 18-28872.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 14-07-210-023-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Stephen Westman, 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: \$13,125
IMPR.: \$43,586
TOTAL: \$56,711

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 2018 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 and one-half-story dwelling with 1,504 square feet of living area of frame construction. The dwelling is 11 years old. Features of the home include a full basement and a two-car garage. The property has a 3,125 square foot site located in Lake View Township, Cook County. The subject is classified as a class 2-03 property under the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance.

The appellant contends overvaluation and assessment equity as the bases of the appeal. In support of the overvaluation argument, the appellant submitted a settlement statement that indicated the subject property was purchased on March 31, 2017, for a price of \$376,700, or \$250.47 per square foot of living area, including land. The Board notes the appellant did not fill out "Section IV- Recent Sale Data" of the Property Tax Appeal Board's appeal form, as required by Property Tax Appeal Board rules. In support of the assessment equity argument, the appellant

submitted descriptions and assessment information for five properties suggested as comparable to the subject.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" disclosing the total assessment for the subject of \$56,711. The subject's assessment reflects a market value of \$567,110 or \$377.07 per square foot of living area, including land, when applying the 2018 level of assessment for class 2 property under the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance of 10%. The subject's improvement assessment is \$43,586, or \$28.98 per square foot of living area. In support of its contention of the correct assessment the board of review submitted equity and recent sale information for four properties suggested as comparable to the subject.

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 appellant did not fill in "Section IV- Recent Sale Data" of the Property Tax Appeal Board's appeal form, as required by Property Tax Appeal Board rules. The Board notes the appellant's brief addressed some of the information left blank in Section IV of the Property Tax Appeal Board's form; however, not all questions were answered. The Board finds the best evidence of market value to be sale comparables #1, #2, #3, and #4 submitted by the board of review. These comparables had sale process that ranged from \$418.87 to \$559.76 per square foot of living area, including land. The subject's recent sale price of \$250.47 is well below the range of these comparables. In addition, the subject's current assessment of reflects a market value of \$377.07 which is below the range of these comparables. Based on this evidence the Board finds a reduction in the subject's assessment on this basis is not justified.

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 both parties' comparables. These comparables had improvement assessments that ranged from \$24.09 to \$40.50 per square foot of living area. The subject's improvement assessment of \$28.98 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.

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

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: February 21, 2023



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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