



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

APPELLANT: Susan Ralston
DOCKET NO.: 18-41592.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 31-36-109-004-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Susan Ralston, the appellant(s), by attorney John W. Zapala, of the Law Offices of John Zapala, P.C. 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 **A Reduction** 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: \$2,254
IMPR.: \$3,124
TOTAL: \$5,378

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 7,514 square foot parcel of land improved with a 62-year old, one-story, frame and masonry, single-family dwelling containing 1,136 square feet of building area. The property is located in Forest Park, Rich Township, Cook County and is classified as a class 2 property under the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance.

The appellant contends overvaluation and inequity as the bases of the appeal. In support of the market value argument, the appellant submitted five sales comparables. These comparables are described as one-story, masonry and frame, single-family dwellings. They range in age from 59 to 65 years and in size from 1,092 to 1,469 square feet of building area. They sold from April 2017 to March 2018 for prices ranging from \$22.00 to \$32.00 per square foot of building area, rounded.

In support of the equity argument, the appellant submitted four comparables. These comparables are described as one-story, frame and masonry, single-family dwellings. They range: in age from 65 to 66 years; in size from 1,092 to 1,303 square feet of building area; and in improvement assessment from \$2.65 to \$2.75 per square foot of building area.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" disclosing the subject's total assessment of \$5,537 with an improvement assessment of \$3,283 or \$2.89 per square foot of building area. The total assessment reflects a market value of \$55,370 or \$48.74 per square foot of building area using the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance level of assessment for class 2 property of 10%.

In support of the assessment the board of review submitted four equity and four sales comparables. The sales comparables are described as one-story, frame frame and masonry, single-family dwellings. They range in age from 62 to 66 and in size from 1,170 to 1,732 square feet of building area. They sold from January 2016 to February 2018 for prices ranging from \$49.49 to \$53.12 per square foot of building area.

The equity comparables are described as one-story, frame or masonry, single-family dwellings. They range: in age from 61 to 66 years; in size from 1,250 to 1,671 square feet of building area; and in improvement assessment from \$3.74 to \$4.48 per square foot of building area.

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 best evidence of market value to be the appellant's comparables #2 and #4 and the board of review's comparable #1. These comparables had sales prices ranging from \$26.29 to \$49.49 per square foot of building area. The remaining comparables were given less weight due to differences in construction and/or size. In comparison the subject's assessment reflects a market value of \$48.74 per square foot of building area is within the range of the best comparables in this record. Based on this record the Board finds the appellant did not demonstrate by a preponderance of the evidence that the subject was overvalued and a reduction in the subject's assessment is not justified.

The taxpayer also 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 best evidence of assessment equity to be the appellant's comparables. These comparables had improvement assessments ranging from \$2.65 to \$2.75 per square foot of building area. The remaining comparables were given less weight due to differences in construction. In comparison the subject's improvement assessment of \$2.89 per square foot of building area is above the range of the best comparables in this record. Based on this record the Board finds the appellant did demonstrate with clear and convincing evidence that the subject's improvement was inequitably assessed and a reduction in the subject's improvements 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: November 16, 2021



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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