



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

APPELLANT: George Drake
DOCKET NO.: 19-01723.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 05-25-460-009

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are George Drake, the appellant, by attorney Scott Shudnow, of Shudnow & Shudnow, Ltd. in Chicago; and the Kane 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 **Kane** County Board of Review is warranted. The correct assessed valuation of the property is:

LAND: \$30,000
IMPR.: \$85,000
TOTAL: \$115,000

Subject only to the State multiplier as applicable.

Statement of Jurisdiction

The appellant timely filed the appeal from a decision of the Kane County Board of Review pursuant to section 16-160 of the Property Tax Code (35 ILCS 200/16-160) challenging the assessment for the 2019 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 two-story dwelling of frame, brick and masonry exterior construction with 2,558 square feet of living area situated on a golf course. The dwelling was constructed in 2008. Features of the home include an unfinished walk-out basement, central air conditioning, a fireplace and a 3-car garage with 651 square feet of building area.¹ The property has a 15,000 square foot site and is located in Elgin, Plato Township, Kane County.

The appellant contends overvaluation as the basis of the appeal. In support of this argument the appellant submitted an appraisal estimating the subject property had a market value of \$325,000

¹ The parties differ as to various property characteristics of the subject property. The Board finds the best evidence of the subject's dwelling size was presented in the appellant's appraisal which contained a sketch of the subject's floorplan along with calculations. The property record card submitted by the board of review also include a sketch of the subject's floorplan, however, labels and dimensions were not legible.

as of January 1, 2019. The appraisal was prepared by Gary Nusinow, a certified general real estate appraiser.

The intended use of the appraisal report was to “to provide a basis for appeal of assessment placed against the property for ad valorem taxation by the Kane County Assessor’s Office.” Users of the report included the taxpayer of record and other authorized parties. The appraiser indicated that the search for comparables focused on closed sales similar to the subject and located within a one mile radius of the subject property which sold between January 1, 2017 and March 31, 2019 and stated that the selected sales were “most similar to the subject in size, style, design, age, condition, etc.”

In estimating the market value of the subject property, the appraiser developed the sales comparison approach to value using six comparable sales located from 0.13 to 1.00 mile from the subject property. The comparables have sites that range in size from 8,712 to 83,635 square feet of land area and are improved with two-story dwellings described as traditional, colonial or Dutch colonial ranging in size from 2,464 to 3,921 square feet of living area. The properties are described by the appraiser as having average to avg+ or average + condition ratings. The homes range in age from 1 year to 30 years old. Each comparable has a basement, two with finished area, central air conditioning, one fireplace and a 2-car or a 3-car garage. The comparables sold from May 2017 to August 2018 for prices ranging from \$300,000 to \$395,000 or from \$99.46 to \$146.30 per square foot of living area, land included.

The appraiser adjusted comparable #3 for being a cash transaction and comparable #6 for having seller paid concessions. After these adjustments for sales and financing conditions, the appraiser adjusted the comparables for differences from the subject in location, site size, view, quality of construction, age, condition, room count, basement finish, garages and exterior amenities. After adjustments, the appraiser arrived at adjusted prices for the comparables ranging from \$298,500 to \$345,900 and an opinion of market value for the subject of \$325,000.

Based on this evidence, the appellant requested the subject’s assessment be reduced to \$108,333 which equates to a market value of approximately \$325,000 or \$127.05 per square foot of living area, land included when applying the statutory level of assessment of 33.33%.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" disclosing the total assessment for the subject of \$122,554. The subject's assessment reflects a market value of \$368,030 or \$143.87 per square foot of living area, land included, when using the 2019 three year average median level of assessment for Kane County of 33.30% as determined by the Illinois Department of Revenue.

In support of its contention of the correct assessment the board of review submitted information on seven comparables located from 0.13 to 0.79 of a mile from the subject property and in the subject’s Bowes Creek neighborhood. Board of review comparable #1 is the same property as appraisal comparable #3. The comparables have sites that range in size from 0.23 to 0.39 of an acre of land area and are improved with two-story dwellings that range in size from 2,700 to 3,226 square feet of living area. The homes were built from 2008 to 2016. Each comparable has a basement, two with finished area, central air conditioning and a garage ranging in size from 460 to 748 square feet of building area. Six comparables each have one fireplace. The

comparables sold from February 2016 to August 2018 for prices ranging from \$377,500 to \$496,000 or from \$128.64 to \$168.59 per square foot of living area, land included.

The board of review, through the Plato Township Assessor, submitted written comments, a grid analysis of the appraisal comparables, a neighborhood analysis, subject property record card and two aerial images. Written comments describe the subject as located on a golf course which includes a wooded area, which the appraiser describes as a wooded lot. An aerial image of the subject shows the wooded portion of the golf course which the subject sites backs up to. The township assessor addressed the appraiser's claim that the subject's development suffers from external obsolescence. The assessor stated that the Bowes Creek development has had 120 new homes sold in the past two years with 37 permits waiting to be completed. The assessor critiqued appraisal comparables #1, #5 and #6 as being located outside of the subject's neighborhood and stated that properties in the Cedar Grove neighborhood sell at a lower price per square foot than the subject's neighborhood. In support of this claim, the township assessor provided a neighborhood analysis comparing sales in the subject's Bowes Creek neighborhood to sales in the Cedar Grove neighborhood. The township assessor submitted an aerial map depicting the subject and proximity to its comparable sales.

Based on this evidence, the board of review requested the subject's assessment be confirmed.

In rebuttal, the appellant's attorney critiqued the board of review's comparable sales evidence, stating that information represents unadjusted raw sales as opposed to the appellant's appraisal comparables which have been adjusted. The appellant's attorney submitted Multiple Listing Service (MLS) sheets for board of review comparables #1 and #4 through #7 asserting "all of the Board of Review comparables are superior to the subject in terms of condition, finishes and amenities." After listing a variety of critiques of the board of review comparables the appellant's attorney argued that each of the board of review's comparables, except comparable #1 which is common to both parties, should not be given any weight.

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 met this burden of proof and a reduction in the subject's assessment is warranted.

The appellant submitted an appraisal while the board of review submitted seven comparable sales for the Board's consideration.

As initial matter, the Board finds that appraisal comparables located outside of the subject's neighborhood were adjusted for location in the appraisal report. The Board analyzed the MLS sheets for the board of review comparables which were submitted by the appellant's attorney and concluded that board of review comparable #7 had some superior updating. The remaining MLS sheets did not advertise updates or describe property conditions and/or materials to be

substantially different from the description of the subject property contained in the appraisal report.

The Board gave less weight to the appraiser's opinion of market value for the subject due to the inclusion of comparables sales outside of the subject's Bowes Creek neighborhood. The Board notes that despite the appraiser's search for comparables being focused on sales "located within a one mile radius of the subject property which sold between January 1, 2017 and March 31, 2019," three of the board of review comparable sales which met the appraiser's search criteria were excluded from the appraisal report. The Board will, however, consider the appraiser's raw sale data.

The Board gave less weight to the appraisal comparables #1, #4, #5 and #6, along with board of review comparables #2, #3, #4, #6 and #7, as their 2016 and 2017 sales are less proximate in time to the January 1, 2019 assessment date than other comparables or they differ from the subject in age, site size and/or dwelling size.

The Board finds the best evidence of market value to be appraisal comparables #2 and #3, along with board of review comparables #1 and #5, which includes the common comparable. These properties are more similar to the subject in location, age and design but have larger dwelling sizes and two of these properties have finished basements, which when compared to the subject's unfinished basement, suggests a downward adjustment is needed to make these comparables more equivalent to the subject. The comparables sold from May to August 2018 for prices ranging from \$335,000 to \$395,000 or from \$119.64 to \$146.30 per square foot of living area, including land. The subject's assessment reflects a market value of \$368,030 or \$143.87 per square foot of living area, including land, which falls within the range established by the best comparable sales in the record. However, after considering adjustments to the comparables for differences when compared to the subject, such as dwelling size and/or finished basement feature, the Board finds a 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: September 21, 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

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