



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

APPELLANT: Ishak Vahora  
DOCKET NO.: 20-36585.001-R-1  
PARCEL NO.: 28-23-423-019-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Ishak Vahora, the appellant, by Jessica Hill-Magiera, Attorney at Law in Lake Zurich; 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:** \$1,740  
**IMPR.:** \$5,239  
**TOTAL:** \$6,979

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 2020 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 multi-level dwelling of frame construction with 1,462 square feet of living area. The dwelling is 32 years old. Features of the home include a finished partial basement, central air conditioning and a 2-car garage. The property has an 8,700 square foot site and is located in Markham, Bremen Township, Cook County. The subject is classified as a class 2-34 property under the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance.

The appellant's appeal is based on overvaluation. In support of this argument the appellant submitted evidence disclosing the subject property was purchased on April 3, 2020 for a price of \$69,786. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested a reduction in the subject's assessment to reflect the purchase price.

In further support of the overvaluation argument, the appellant submitted information on three comparable sales that are located within the same neighborhood code as the subject. The

comparables sold from September 2018 to October 2019 for prices ranging from \$52,500 to \$84,200 or from \$36.11 to \$63.21 per square foot of living area, including land.

Based on this evidence, the appellant requested a reduction in the subject's assessment to reflect the purchase price.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" disclosing the total assessment for the subject of \$12,176. The subject's assessment reflects a market value of \$121,760 or \$83.28 per square foot of living area, including land, when using the level of assessments for class 2 property of 10% under the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance.

In support of its contention of the correct assessment the board of review submitted information on four comparable sales located within the same neighborhood code as the subject. The comparables sold from May 2019 to November 2020 for prices ranging from \$120,000 to \$179,009 or from \$90.23 to \$134.80 per square foot of living area, including land. The board of review argued the subject previously sold in June 2019 by a judicial sale and the most recent sale was an REO distress sale.

Based on this evidence the board of review requested confirmation of the subject's assessment.

The appellant submitted rebuttal critiquing the board of review's submission.

### **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 Board finds the best evidence of market value to be the purchase of the subject property in April 2020 for a price of \$69,786. The appellant provided evidence demonstrating the sale had the elements of an arm's length transaction. The appellant completed Section IV - Recent Sale Data of the appeal disclosing the parties to the transaction were not related, the property was sold using a Realtor, and the property had been advertised on the open market with the Multiple Listing Service (MLS.) In further support of the transaction, the appellant submitted a copy of the MLS revealing the subject was advertised for 30 days prior to being purchased on April 3, 2020 and a copy of the Settlement Statement revealing the amount of Real Estate Commission paid at the time of purchase. The Board finds the purchase price is below the market value reflected by the assessment. The Board further finds the board of review did not present any evidence to challenge the arm's length nature of the transaction, other than arguing the subject previously sold in June 2019 by a judicial sale and the most recent sale was an REO distress sale. The Illinois Supreme Court has defined fair cash value as what the property would bring at a voluntary sale where the owner is ready, willing, and able to sell but not compelled to do so, and the buyer is ready, willing and able to buy but not forced to do so. Springfield Marine Bank v.

Property Tax Appeal Board, 44 Ill.2d 428, (1970). A contemporaneous sale of property between parties dealing at arm's-length is a relevant factor in determining the correctness of an assessment and may be practically conclusive on the issue of whether an assessment is reflective of market value. Rosewell v. 2626 Lakeview Limited Partnership, 120 Ill.App.3d 369 (1<sup>st</sup> Dist. 1983), People ex rel. Munson v. Morningside Heights, Inc., 45 Ill.2d 338 (1970), People ex rel. Korzen v. Belt Railway Co. of Chicago, 37 Ill.2d 158 (1967); and People ex rel. Rhodes v. Turk, 391 Ill. 424 (1945).

Finally, the Board gave less weight to the parties' comparable sales analyses, as this evidence does not overcome the weight of the subject's recent arm's length sale transaction.

Based on this record the Board finds a reduction in the subject's assessment commensurate with the appellant's request is appropriate.

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.

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Chairman



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Member



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Member



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Member



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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: June 18, 2024



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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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