



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

APPELLANT: Kenneth Lech  
DOCKET NO.: 21-29064.001-R-1  
PARCEL NO.: 28-09-211-064-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Kenneth Lech, the appellant(s), by attorney Wayne C. Borawski, Attorney at Law in Brookfield; 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:** \$1,260  
**IMPR.:** \$24,491  
**TOTAL:** \$25,751

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 2021 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 is improved with a 20-year-old, two-story, building of frame and masonry exterior construction containing 2,477 square feet of gross building area. Features of the subject include a full unfinished basement, central air conditioning, one fireplace, and a two-car garage. The property is situated on 2,520 square feet of land in Bremen Township, Cook County. The subject is classified as a Class 2 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 a settlement statement that disclosed the subject property was sold by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and purchased by the appellant on March 16, 2019, for

\$179,500. The subject's sale price reflects a market value of \$72.47 per square foot of gross building area including land. The appellant also submitted a PTAX-203 Illinois Real Estate Transfer Declaration (PTAX-203), a MyDec Cook County Real Estate Transfer Declaration, a Multiple Listing Service (MLS) information sheet, and a Special Warranty Deed. The PTAX-203 disclosed the subject was sold by a financial institution or government agency, in this case HUD. The MLS sheet disclosed the subject was sold in foreclosure. The appellant included information in Section IV—Recent Sale Data of the Residential Appeal that the subject was not sold as a transfer between related parties; was advertised and sold through a realtor; was sold in settlement of a foreclosure. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested a reduction in the subject's assessment to reflect the purchase price when using the 2021 level of assessment of 10.00% for Class 2 property under the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" disclosing the total assessment for the subject of \$25,751. The subject's assessment reflects a market value of \$257,510, or \$103.96 per square foot of gross building area, when using the 2021 level of assessment of 10.00% for Class 2 property 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 suggested comparable sales.

At hearing, the appellant argued the subject sold in an arm's-length transaction for fair market value because it had been advertised and sold by a realtor. The board of review argued the transaction was compulsory because it was sold by HUD due to a foreclosure.

### **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 has not met this burden of proof and a reduction in the subject's assessment is not warranted.

In addressing the appellant's market value argument, the Board finds that the sale of the subject in March 2019 for \$179,500 is a "compulsory sale." A "compulsory sale" is defined as:

- (i) the sale of real estate for less than the amount owed to the mortgage lender or mortgagor, if the lender or mortgagor has agreed to the sale, commonly referred to as a "short sale" and (ii) the first sale of real estate owned by a financial institution as a result of a judgment of foreclosure, transfer pursuant to a deed in lieu of foreclosure, or consent judgment, occurring after the foreclosure proceeding is complete.

*35 ILCS 200/1-23.*

Real property in Illinois must be assessed at its fair cash value, which can only be estimated absent any compulsion on either party.

Illinois law requires that all real property be valued at its fair cash value, estimated at the price it would bring at a fair voluntary sale where the owner is ready, willing, and able to sell but not compelled to do so, and the buyer is likewise ready, willing, and able to buy, but is not forced to do so.

*Bd. of Educ. of Meridian Cmty. Unit Sch. Dist. No. 223 v. Ill. Prop. Tax Appeal Bd.*, 2011 IL App (2d) 100068, ¶36 (2011) (citing *Chrysler Corp. v. Ill. Prop. Tax Appeal Bd.*, 69 Ill. App. 3d 207, 211 (2d Dist. 1979)).

The Board may consider market value evidence, such as sales of comparable properties submitted by the parties, to determine whether the subject was sold at fair cash value. 86 Ill.Admin.Code §1910.65(c)(4); See, *Calumet Transfer LLC v. Illinois Property Tax Appeal Board*, 401 Ill.App.3d 652 (1<sup>st</sup> Dist. 2010).

The appellant did not submit comparables or other evidence to establish that the sale of the subject was for fair cash value. The board of review submitted sale comparable properties that were not similar with the subject property and, therefore, of no support to the board of review. The Board notes the appellant's burden of going forward with evidence to establish overvaluation by a preponderance of the evidence. The appellant failed this standard. The Board gives greater weight to the evidence of a compulsory sale not at fair market value. Had the appellant submitted suggested comparable sale properties to establish a range of valuation, the Board may have had sufficient evidence of overvaluation. That the board of review did not submit similar comparable properties does not lead the Board to find the sale was at arm's-length for fair market value.

In determining the fair cash value of the subject property and all relevant factors, the Board finds that the appellant did not submit enough evidence to show the subject was overvalued. Therefore, the Board finds that the appellant has not met its burden by a preponderance of the evidence and that the subject does not warrant a reduction based upon the market data submitted into evidence.

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

Member

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Member

Member

\_\_\_\_\_  
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: \_\_\_\_\_

March 18, 2025

\_\_\_\_\_  
Clerk of the Property Tax Appeal Board

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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