



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

APPELLANT: Joshua Phelp - Deuce Properties  
DOCKET NO.: 22-03102.001-R-1  
PARCEL NO.: 06-33.0-204-001

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Joshua Phelp - Deuce Properties, the appellant; and the St. Clair 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 **St. Clair** County Board of Review is warranted. The correct assessed valuation of the property is:

**LAND:** \$13,381  
**IMPR.:** \$48,417  
**TOTAL:** \$61,798

Subject only to the State multiplier as applicable.

**Statement of Jurisdiction**

The appellant timely filed the appeal from a notice of equalization issued by the St. Clair County Board of Review pursuant to section 16-160 of the Property Tax Code (35 ILCS 200/16-160) challenging the assessment for the 2022 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 1.5-story dwelling of frame and masonry exterior construction<sup>1</sup> with 1,695 square feet of living area. The dwelling was constructed in 1986 and has an effective age of 2000. Features of the home include a basement, central air conditioning, a fireplace, and a 299 square foot garage. The property has an approximately 0.3 acre site and is located in Dupo, Sugarloaf Township, St. Clair County.

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 14, 2022 for a price of \$90,000. The appellant completed Section IV – Recent Sale Data of the appeal petition disclosing the sale was not between related parties, the property was through a realtor and was advertised for sale with the Multiple Listing Service for 42 days, and the sale was not due to

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<sup>1</sup> Additional details regarding the subject not reported by the appellant are found in its property record card presented by the board of review.

foreclosure or by contract for deed. In support of the sale, the appellant submitted copies of a settlement statement between Deuce Properties LLC, as buyer, and Elaine C. Boron, as successor trustee of the Janice J. Tesar Living Trust, as seller, showing payment of realtors' commissions; a purchase contract for a price of \$90,000 between Joshua D. Phelps, as buyer, and Elaine C. Boron, as seller, and disclosures by Elaine C. Boron, as seller, to Joshua D. Phelps, as buyer. 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 \$65,667. The subject's assessment reflects a market value of \$197,021 or \$ per square foot of living area, land included, when applying the statutory level of assessment of 33.33%.<sup>2</sup> The board of review indicated in its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" that the appellant did not file a complaint with the board of review, but filed this appeal directly to the Board following receipt of notices of an equalization factor of 1.0626 for Sugarloaf Township which increased the subject's total assessment from \$61,798 to \$65,667. Based on this evidence, the board of review requested the subject's assessment be sustained.

### **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.

As an initial matter, the record indicates that the appellant did not file a complaint with the board of review but appealed the subject's total assessment directly to the Board based on a notice of an equalization factor. Since the appeal was filed after notification of an equalization factor, the amount of relief that the Board can grant is limited. Section 1910.60(a) of the rules of the Board states in part:

If the taxpayer or owner of property files a petition within 30 days after the postmark date of the written notice of the application of final, adopted township equalization factors, the relief the Property Tax Appeal Board may grant is limited to the amount of the increase caused by the application of the township equalization factor. (86 Ill.Admin.Code §1910.60(a)).

Additionally, section 16-180 of the Property Tax Code provides in pertinent part:

Where no complaint has been made to the board of review of the county where the property is located and the appeal is based solely on the effect of an

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<sup>2</sup> Section 1910.50(c)(1) of the Board's procedural rules provides that in all counties other than Cook, the three-year county wide assessment level as certified by the Department of Revenue will be considered. 86 Ill. Admin. Code § 1910.50(c)(1). As of the development of this Final Administrative decision, the Department of Revenue has not published figures for tax year 2022.

equalization factor assigned to all property or to a class of property by the board of review, the Property Tax Appeal Board may not grant a reduction in the assessment greater than the amount that was added as the result of the equalization factor. (35 ILCS 200/16-180).

These provisions mean that where a taxpayer files an appeal directly to the Board after notice of application of an equalization factor, the Board cannot grant an assessment reduction greater than the amount of increase caused by the equalization factor. Villa Retirement Apartments, Inc. v. Property Tax Appeal Bd., 302 Ill. App. 3d 745, 753, 706 N.E. 2d 76, 82, 235 Ill. Dec. 816, 822 (4th Dist. 1999). Thus, any reduction would be limited to the increase in the assessment caused by the application of the equalization factor.

The Board finds the only evidence of market value to be the purchase of the subject property in April, 2022 for a price of \$90,000. 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, the property had been advertised on the open market with the Multiple Listing Service and it had been on the market for 42 days. In further support of the transaction the appellant submitted copies of the sales contract and settlement statement. The Board finds the purchase price is below the market value reflected by the assessment. The Board finds the board of review did not present any evidence to challenge the arm's length nature of the transaction or to refute the contention that the purchase price was reflective of market value. Based on this record, the Board finds the subject's assessment is not reflective of market value and a reduction in the subject's assessment is justified, but such reduction is limited to the increase in the assessment caused by the application of the equalization factor.

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: February 20, 2024



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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