



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

APPELLANT: Barbara Butler West Suburban Bk Land Trust 1456  
DOCKET NO.: 22-03264.001-R-1  
PARCEL NO.: 04-27-409-021

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Barbara Butler West Suburban Bk Land Trust 1456, the appellant, by Dennis D. Koonce, Attorney at Law in Frankfort; and the DuPage 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 **DuPage** County Board of Review is warranted. The correct assessed valuation of the property is:

**LAND:** \$47,340  
**IMPR.:** \$222,660  
**TOTAL:** \$270,000

Subject only to the State multiplier as applicable.

**Statement of Jurisdiction**

The appellant timely filed the appeal from a decision of the DuPage 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 2-story dwelling of frame and brick exterior construction with 4,244 square feet of living area.<sup>1</sup> Features of the home include a basement with finish area, central air conditioning, two fireplaces, and a 3-car garage with 828 square feet of building area. The property has an approximately 46,070 square feet of land area and is located in Warrenville, Winfield Township, DuPage County.

The appellant contends overvaluation as the basis of the appeal. In support of this argument, the appellant completed Section IV – Recent Sale Data and reported that the subject property was purchased on January 4, 2021 from Cactus Financial for a price of \$810,000. The appellant further reported that the parties to the transaction were not related, the property was sold through a realtor, and the property was advertised through the Multiple Listing Service (MLS) for a

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<sup>1</sup> The best description of the subject property was the property record card presented by the board of review.

period of 48 days. The subject property was not sold due to a foreclosure, nor was it sold using a contract for deed. The MLS data sheet supplied by the appellant also depicted that the subject property had an original asking price of \$867,775. In further support of the appeal, the appellant provided a copy of the Settlement Statement which reiterated the purchase price, date of sale, and depicted brokers' fees being distributed to two separate entities. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested a reduction in the subject's assessment to approximately reflect the purchase price.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" disclosing the total assessment for the subject of \$281,630. The subject's assessment reflects a market value of \$845,228, land included, when using the 2022 three-year average median level of assessment for DuPage County of 33.32% as determined by the Illinois Department of Revenue.

In response to the appeal, the board of review submitted a memorandum and data from the township assessor's office. The board of review noted that the appellant purchased the home in either December 2020 or January 2021<sup>2</sup> in an arm's length transaction and provided a copy of the PTAX-203 Illinois Real Estate Transfer Declaration. The assessing officials further contend that the subject's 2022 assessment of \$281,630 (rounded to the nearest ten) was calculated by applying the 2022 township equalization factor of 1.0432 or 4.32% to the subject's sale price of \$810,000. Based on this evidence and argument, the assessing officials contend that the subject property has been assessed at the statutory level of 33.33% of market value and therefore request confirmation.

### **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 and only evidence of market value in the record to be the purchase of the subject property in January 2021 for a price of \$810,000. The appellant set forth evidence asserting the sale had the elements of an arm's length transaction and the assessing officials agreed that the sale was 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 that the property had been advertised on the open market through the Multiple Listing Service for a period of 48 days. The original asking price for the property was \$867,775 and in further support of the transaction, the appellant submitted a copy of the Settlement Statement associated with the sale of the subject property which reiterated the purchase price, date of sale and depicted brokers' fees being distributed to two entities.

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<sup>2</sup> The Board finds the best evidence of the subject's sale date was the evidence presented by the appellant, which included the Settlement Statement and MLS datasheet.

The Illinois Supreme Court has held that a contemporaneous sale between two parties dealing at arm's length is not only relevant to the question of fair cash value but practically conclusive on the issue on whether the assessment is reflective of market value. Korzen v. Belt Railway Co. of Chicago, 37 Ill.2d 158 (1967). The Board finds the purchase price of \$810,000 is below the market value reflected by the assessment of \$845,228, land included.

First, the Board finds that the DuPage County Board of Review did not present any substantive evidence of subsequent events that occurred which would cause a change in the subject's market value from its January 2021 purchase price as of January 1, 2022 by 4.32%. Second, the board of review did not present any evidence of market value, such as comparable sales, in support of the subject's assessment in order to establish that the sale price was no longer the best evidence of the subject's market value.

Finally, the Board takes judicial notice of the purpose of equalization factors as set forth in the Illinois Department of Revenue publication, PTAX-1004, The Illinois Property Tax System, page 17, concerning how uniformity in assessments is achieved by applying equalization factors:

The assessment/sales ratio study shows **whether or not assessments within a given area actually average 33 1/3 percent of market value**. If the results of the study indicate that assessments are either higher or lower than 33 1/3 percent, a blanket percentage increase or decrease, called an "equalization factor" or "multiplier" is calculated and applied to all non-farm property to bring the level of assessment to 33 1/3 percent. The application of this uniform percentage increase or decrease to assessed values is called "equalization." [Emphasis added.]

Here, where the subject's sale occurred less than a year from the assessment date at issue of January 1, 2021 and in the absence of other market value evidence suggesting that the sale price was no longer reflective of market value, based on this record, the Property Tax Appeal Board finds that the subject's 2022 assessment is not reflective of market value. In conclusion, as the appellant has established that the subject property is overvalued based upon its assessment, a reduction in the subject's assessment commensurate with the appellant's request is warranted. Furthermore, the Property Tax Appeal Board finds the argument by the board of review that the subject's 2021 sale price should be increased by 4.32% due to the Winfield Township equalization factor of 1.0432 is unsupported and unpersuasive.

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:

May 21, 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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APPELLANT

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