

**OHIO BOARD OF TAX APPEALS**

Board of Education of the Springfield City )  
Schools, )  
 )  
Appellant, )  
 )  
vs. )  
 )  
Clark County Board of Revision, Clark )  
County Auditor, and the Grand Lodge of )  
Ohio of the Independent Order of Odd )  
Fellows, )  
 )  
Appellees. )

CASE NO. 2009-A-36  
(REAL PROPERTY TAX)  
ORDER  
(Compelling Discovery)

APPEARANCES:

- For the Appellant - Rich & Gillis Law Group, LLC  
Mark H. Gillis  
300 East Broad Street, Suite 300  
Columbus, Ohio 43215
  
- For the County Appellees - Stephen A. Schumaker  
Clark County Prosecuting Attorney  
William Hoffman  
Assistant Prosecuting Attorney  
P.O. Box 1608  
Springfield, Ohio 45502
  
- For the Appellee Property Owner - William Hicks  
Attorney at Law  
333 North Limestone Street  
Springfield, Ohio 45503

Entered April 28, 2009

This cause and matter came on to be considered by the Board of Tax Appeals upon a motion to compel discovery filed by the appellant board of education.

The motion provides, in pertinent part:

“Now comes Appellant, Board of Education of the Springfield City School District, and moves this Board for an order to compel Appellee Grand Lodge of Ohio of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows to respond to the Board of Education of the Springfield City Schools District’s request for the inspection of documents and to provide answers to interrogatories.”

In its motion, the board of education indicated that it served upon the appellee property owner Grand Lodge of Ohio of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows (“Grand Lodge”) a request for production of documents and interrogatories on February 5, 2009. Thereafter, by letters dated March 10, 2009, and March 27, 2009, the board of education requested that the Grand Lodge comply with its earlier discovery requests, since no responses had been received. The property owner failed to respond to the board of education’s inquiries. Further, the Grand Lodge has also failed to respond to this board regarding the instant motion to compel.

Ohio Adm. Code 5717-1-11, which sets forth this board’s rule for allowing discovery, provides in pertinent part:

“(A) Discovery may be permitted by deposition upon oral examination or written questions; written interrogatories; production of documents or tangible things or permission to enter upon land or other property; and requests for admissions. The ‘Ohio Rules of Civil Procedure’ shall be followed for discovery purposes to the extent they are not inconsistent with other board rules \*\*\*.”

Based upon our previous interpretations of the foregoing section, this board would normally expend considerable time and effort addressing each interrogatory and documentary request set forth in the board of education’s motion to compel to determine whether such items or information would be properly compelled.

However, in this instance, given that the Grand Lodge has apparently failed to respond to the board of education's informal discovery requests as well as its motion to compel, we will not undertake to provide such analysis. *Gerimi Co. v. Cuyahoga Cty. Bd. of Revision* (Jan. 4, 1995), BTA No. 1994-K-1030, unreported; *Independence Bd. of Edn. v. Cuyahoga Cty. Bd. of Revision* (Sept. 2, 1994), BTA No. 1994-A-106, unreported. As the information sought by the board of education is not patently undiscoverable and is reasonably relevant to the subject matter involved in this appeal, this board finds that the appellant board of education's motion to compel discovery is well taken.

Accordingly, the motion to compel is hereby granted. It is therefore the order of the Board of Tax Appeals that the Grand Lodge, within fourteen days of the issuance of this order, shall respond to the board of education's discovery request by submitting the requested documents and providing the requested information.

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