



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

APPELLANT: Steven Gucwa  
DOCKET NO.: 13-30368.001-R-1  
PARCEL NO.: 10-28-228-065-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Steven Gucwa, the appellant, by Julie Realmuto, Attorney at Law in Chicago; 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:** \$3,761  
**IMPR.:** \$23,862  
**TOTAL:** \$27,623

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 2013 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 two-story dwelling of masonry exterior construction with 1,616 square feet of living area. The dwelling is approximately 72 years old. Features of the home include a partial unfinished basement, central air conditioning and a two-car garage. The property has a 5,374 square foot site and is located in Skokie, Niles Township, Cook County. The subject is classified as a class 2-05 property under the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance.

The appellant contends assessment inequity as the basis of the appeal. In support of this argument the appellant submitted information on three equity comparables with the same assessment neighborhood code as the subject. The comparables are improved with two-story dwellings of masonry and frame or masonry exterior construction that range from 63 to 90 years old. The comparables had varying degrees of similarity when compared to the subject. The dwellings range in size from 1,397 to 2,015 square feet of living area and have improvement

assessments ranging from \$5,047 to \$22,966 or from \$3.61 to \$12.15 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested the total assessment be reduced to \$22,183.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" disclosing the total assessment for the subject of \$27,623. The subject property has an improvement assessment of \$23,862 or \$14.77 per square foot of living area. In support of its contention of the correct assessment the board of review submitted information on four equity comparables located in the same neighborhood code and within .25 of a mile from subject property. The comparables are improved with two-story dwellings of masonry exterior construction that range from 63 to 73 years old. The comparables had varying degrees of similarity when compared to the subject. The dwellings range in size from 1,488 to 1,559 square feet of living area and have improvement assessments ranging from \$22,748 to \$24,146 or from \$14.97 to \$15.78 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence, the board of review requested confirmation of the subject's assessment.

### **Conclusion of Law**

The taxpayer contends assessment inequity as the basis of the appeal. When unequal treatment in the assessment process is the basis of the appeal, the inequity of the assessments must be proved by clear and convincing evidence. 86 Ill.Admin.Code §1910.63(e). Proof of unequal treatment in the assessment process should consist of documentation of the assessments for the assessment year in question of not less than three comparable properties showing the similarity, proximity and lack of distinguishing characteristics of the assessment comparables to the subject property. 86 Ill.Admin.Code §1910.65(b). The Board finds the appellant did not meet this burden of proof and a reduction in the subject's assessment is not warranted.

The parties submitted information on a total of seven suggested equity comparables for the Board's consideration. The Board gave less weight to the appellant's comparables #1 and #2 due to their difference in size when compared to the subject property. The Board finds the appellant's comparable #3 and the board of review's comparables are more similar when compared to the subject in location, age, dwelling size, design, exterior construction and features. These comparables had improvement assessments that ranged from \$12.15 to \$15.78 per square foot of living area. The subject's improvement assessment of \$14.77 per square foot of living area falls within the range established by the most similar comparables in this record. Based on this record the Board finds the appellant did not demonstrate with clear and convincing evidence that the subject's improvement was inequitably assessed and a reduction in the subject's assessment is not justified.

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.



Chairman



Member



Member



Member



Acting 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: September 23, 2016



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 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 the subsequent year 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.

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.