



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

APPELLANT: Robert Keefer  
DOCKET NO.: 14-29411.001-R-1  
PARCEL NO.: 29-32-301-013-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Robert Keefer, the appellant, by John S. Xydakis, of the Law Offices of John S. Xydakis 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 A Reduction 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:** \$2,625  
**IMPR.:** \$2,189  
**TOTAL:** \$4,814

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 2014 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 one-story dwelling of frame exterior construction with 1,230 square feet of living area. The dwelling is approximately 90 years old. Features of the home include a slab concrete foundation and a one-car garage. The property has a 7,500 square foot site and is located in Homewood, Thornton Township, Cook County. The subject is classified as a class 2-03 property under the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance.

The appellant contends assessment inequity as the basis of the appeal. The subject's land assessment was not contested. In support of this argument, the appellant submitted information on four equity comparables. The comparables were improved with one-story dwellings of frame exterior construction. The dwellings are from 98 to 106 years old. Three comparables have basements, one comparable has central air conditioning and one comparable has a fireplace. The

appellant's attorney did not indicate whether any of the comparables had a garage. The dwellings range in size from 1,090 to 1,276 square feet of living area and have improvement assessments ranging from \$1,509 to \$3,126 or from \$1.38 to \$2.48 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested that the improvement assessment be reduced to \$2,189 or \$1.78 per square foot of living area.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" disclosing the total assessment for the subject of \$8,338. The subject property has an improvement assessment of \$5,713 or \$4.64 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 as the subject property. The comparables were improved with one-story frame or frame and masonry dwellings that range in size from 1,248 to 1,358 square feet of living area. The dwellings are from 53 to 64 years old. The comparables were improved with partial or full basements with two comparables having finished areas, two comparables have a fireplace and three comparables have a one-car or two-car garage. The comparables have improvement assessments that ranged from \$7,772 to \$9,653 or from \$6.15 to \$7.11 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence, the board of review requested that the assessment be confirmed.

### **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 met this burden of proof and a reduction in the subject's assessment is warranted.

The parties submitted eight suggested comparables for the Board's consideration. The Board also gave less weight to the board of review's comparables based on their considerably newer age and partial or full basements when compared to the subject's older age and slab concrete foundation.

The Board finds the best evidence of assessment equity to be the appellant's comparables. These comparables, despite the differences in comparables #3 and #4 partial basements, were the most similar to the subject in location, design, exterior construction, age, dwelling size and features. These comparables had improvement assessments that ranged from \$1,509 to \$3,126 or from \$1.38 to \$2.48 per square foot of living area. The subject's improvement assessment of \$5,713 or \$4.64 per square foot of living area is above the range established by the best comparables contained in this record. Based on this record, the Board finds the appellant did demonstrate with clear and convincing evidence that the subject's improvement was inequitably assessed and a reduction in the subject's assessment is 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. Pursuant to Section 1910.50(b) of the rules of the Property Tax Appeal Board (86 Ill.Admin.Code §1910.50(b)) 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



Acting 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: January 16, 2018



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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