



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

APPELLANT: Jerry, Jim, Tim & Helen Clay
DOCKET NO.: 15-05781.001-F-1
PARCEL NO.: 14-09-25-200-003

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Jerry, Jim, Tim & Helen Clay, the appellants; and the Stephenson 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 **Stephenson** County Board of Review is warranted. The correct assessed valuation of the property is:

F/Land:	\$17,472
Homesite:	\$3,747
Residence:	\$12,310
Outbuildings:	\$35,678
TOTAL:	\$69,207

Subject only to the State multiplier as applicable.

Statement of Jurisdiction

The appellants timely filed the appeal from a decision of the Stephenson County Board of Review pursuant to section 16-160 of the Property Tax Code (35 ILCS 200/16-160) challenging the assessment for the 2015 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 an improved farmland parcel of 79.52 acres. The subject property is improved with a single-family residence and 17 outbuildings. The subject property is located in Dakota Township, Stephenson County.

The appellants contend contention of law as the basis of the appeal.¹ In support of this argument the appellants submitted a brief on the valuation of the farm buildings. The appellants also submitted a copy of the decision of the board of review disclosing the subject property had a

¹ The appellants marked assessment equity as a basis for their appeal. However, the appellants did not submit any evidence to support an inequity claim. The Property Tax Appeal Board will issue this decision based on the contention of law issue.

total assessment of \$88,487. The appellants requested the subject's assessment be reduced to \$58,239.

The board of review did not submit its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" nor any evidence in support of its assessed valuation of the subject property.

Conclusion of Law

The appellants raise a contention of law that the subject property is not accurately assessed. Unless otherwise provided by law or stated in the agency's rules, the standard of proof in any contested case hearing conducted under the Illinois Administrative Procedure Act by an agency shall be the preponderance of the evidence. (5 ILCS 100/10-15). The rules of the Property Tax Appeal Board do not provide for the standard of proof when a contention of law is raised, therefore, the standard of proof is the preponderance of the evidence. The Board finds the appellants met this burden of proof and a reduction in the assessment is justified.

The Board finds the only evidence of the correct assessment is the contention of law issue submitted by the appellants explaining the farm building's valuation. The board of review did not submit any evidence in support of its assessment of the subject property or refute the evidence submitted by the appellants as required by section 1910.40(a) of the rules of the Property Tax Appeal Board. Therefore, the board of review is found to be in default pursuant to section 1910.69(a) of the rules of the Property Tax Appeal Board. 86 Ill.Admin.Code §1910.40(a) & §1910.69(a). The Board has examined the evidence submitted by the appellants and finds that a reduction in the assessed valuation of the subject property is warranted.

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: March 19, 2019



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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