



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

APPELLANT: Laura Gerace
DOCKET NO.: 16-20465.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 15-01-105-026-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Laura Gerace, the appellant, by attorney Ellen G. Berkshire, of Verros Berkshire 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: \$6,154
IMPR.: \$30,150
TOTAL: \$36,304

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 2016 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 frame exterior construction with 2,155 square feet of living area. The dwelling is 65 years old. Features of the home include a full unfinished basement and a fireplace. The property has a 6,154 square foot site and is located in River Forest, River Forest 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 improvement 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 that are located within a different neighborhood code than the subject or from 9.6 to 10.2 miles from the subject. The comparables are two-story dwellings of masonry, stucco, or frame and masonry exterior construction containing from 1,702 to 2,044 square foot of living area. The dwellings range in age from 84 to 93 years old. One

comparable has central air conditioning. Three comparables have partial or full unfinished basements, a fireplace and a one-car or a two-car garage. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$9,984 to \$13,278 or from \$5.87 to \$6.75 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested that the subject's improvement assessment be reduced to \$13,512 or \$6.27 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 \$36,304. The subject property has an improvement assessment of \$30,150 or \$13.99 per square foot of living area. In support of its contention of the correct assessment, the board of review submitted information on two equity comparables that are located within the same neighborhood code or .25 of a mile from the subject property. The comparables are two-story dwellings of frame or masonry exterior construction containing 1,861 or 1,972 square foot of living area. The dwellings are 65 or 68 years old and feature full basements, one of which has finished area. One comparable has central air conditioning. Each comparable has a fireplace and a 1-car or a 1.5-car garage. The comparables have improvement assessments of \$30,720 and \$32,326 or \$15.58 and \$17.37 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 six suggested comparables for the Board's consideration. The Board gave less weight to the appellant's comparables in comparison to the subject due to their more distal location, considerably older ages, and/or lack of foundation.

The Board finds the best evidence of assessment equity to be the board of review two comparables. The Board gave greater weight to these comparables because they are closer in proximity and age to the subject than the appellant's comparables. These comparables are also similar to the subject in design, dwelling size, and some features. The board of review comparables have improvement assessments of \$30,720 and \$32,326 or \$15.58 and \$17.37 per square foot of living area. The subject's improvement assessment of \$30,150 or \$13.99 per square foot of living area is below the range established by the two best comparables in this record which appears justified given the subject's lack of a garage. After considering adjustments to the comparables for differences when compared to the subject, 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.

The constitutional provision for uniformity of taxation and valuation does not require mathematical equality. A practical uniformity, rather than an absolute one, is the test. Apex Motor Fuel Co. v. Barrett, 20 Ill.2d 395 (1960). Although the comparables presented by the parties disclosed that the properties located in the same area are not assessed at identical levels, all that the constitution requires is a practical uniformity, which exists on the basis of the evidence.

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: April 23, 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

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