



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

APPELLANT: James Schermerhorn  
DOCKET NO.: 16-20545.001-R-1  
PARCEL NO.: 05-28-415-001-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are James Schermerhorn, the appellant, by attorney Spiro Zarkos, 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:** \$12,600  
**IMPR.:** \$43,020  
**TOTAL:** \$55,620

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 is improved with a 2-story frame and masonry dwelling containing 1,434 square feet of living area. The dwelling is 91 years old and features a full unfinished basement, a fireplace and a 1-car garage. The subject is located in Wilmette, New Trier Township, Cook County. It 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 four 2-story, class 2-05 comparables having the same neighborhood code as the subject and located from 0.1 to 0.7 of a mile from the subject. They range in size from 1,232 to 1,767 square feet of living area and range in age from 81 to 120 years old. Three comparables have basements, one with finished area, one has a fireplace and three have 1 or 2-car garages. All four comparables feature central air conditioning. The

comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$27,721 to \$39,877 or from \$22.00 to \$24.55 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence the appellant requested the subject's 2016 improvement assessment be reduced to \$32,730 or \$22.82 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 \$55,620. The subject property has an improvement assessment of \$43,020 or \$30.00 per square foot of living area.

In support of the assessment the board of review submitted information on four 2-story, class 2-05 comparables having the same neighborhood code as the subject. One comparable is located within .25 of a mile from the subject. The comparables range in size from 1,285 to 1,624 square feet of living area and range in age from 65 to 78 years old. They feature basements, three with finished areas, and 1 fireplace each. Three comparables feature 1-car garages and two have central air conditioning. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$45,709 to \$52,685 or from \$32.20 to \$38.97 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 appellant 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 a total of eight comparables for the Board's consideration. The Board gives less weight to appellant's comparables #1, #2 and #4 board of review comparables #1, #3 and #4 due to their dissimilar dwelling sizes and/or finished basements or lack of basement when compared to the subject. The Board finds appellant's comparable #3 and board of review comparable #2 are most similar to the subject in location, age, style, dwelling size and most features. The comparables have improvement assessments of \$27,721 and \$52,295 or \$22.50 and \$32.20 per square foot of living area. The subject property has an improvement assessment of \$43,020 or \$30.00 per square foot of living area which is supported by the most similar comparables in the record. Based on this evidence 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 improvement assessment based on inequity is not 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.

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Chairman



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Member

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Member



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Member

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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



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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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