



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

APPELLANT: Gary Levens
DOCKET NO.: 16-20774.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 05-32-104-047-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Gary Levens, the appellant, by attorney Timothy E. Moran, of Schmidt Salzman & Moran, Ltd. 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: \$12,163
IMPR.: \$72,236
TOTAL: \$84,399

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 and masonry construction. The dwelling is approximately 64 years old and has 3,253 square feet of living area. Features of the home include a partial unfinished basement, central air conditioning, two fireplaces and a 2-car garage. The property has an 11,584 square-foot site and is located in Wilmette, New Trier Township, Cook County. The subject is classified as a class 2-06 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 five equity comparables with the same classification code as the subject. Three of the comparables have the same neighborhood code as the subject. The comparables are improved with two-story dwellings of frame, stucco or frame and masonry construction. The dwellings are from 64 to 128 years old and contain from 3,126 to 3,391 square feet of living area. Four comparables have full or partial unfinished basements, and

another comparable has a concrete slab foundation. Three comparables have central air conditioning; one comparable has a fireplace; and four comparables have garages that range from 1-car to 2½-car. The comparables have improvement assessments that range from \$50,443 to \$68,776 or from \$16.14 to \$21.55 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested a reduction in the subject's improvement assessment to \$66,588 or \$20.47 per square foot of living area.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" wherein the subject's final assessment of \$84,399 was disclosed. The subject property has an improvement assessment of \$72,236 or \$22.21 per square foot of living area. The board of review presented descriptions and assessment information on four comparable properties that have the same neighborhood and classification codes as the subject. The comparables were described as being located a quarter-mile from the subject property. The comparables are improved with two-story dwellings of frame and masonry construction. The dwellings are from 64 to 75 years old and contain from 2,209 to 3,040 square feet of living area. The comparables have full or partial finished basements; central air conditioning, one or two fireplaces; and garages, either 1-car or 1½-car. The comparable properties have improvement assessments that range from \$52,600 to \$70,239 or from \$23.04 to \$23.84 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 presented assessment data on a total of nine suggested comparables. The Board finds the appellant's comparables #1 through #4 are significantly older than the subject; comparables #1 and #5 lack central air conditioning; comparables #2 and #4 are located in different neighborhoods; and comparable #5 has a concrete slab foundation that is dissimilar from the subject's partial basement. Due to these differences, the appellant's comparables received less weight in the Board's analysis. Board of review comparables #3 and #4 have significantly less living area than the subject and also received less weight. The Board finds the best evidence of assessment equity to be board of review comparables #1 and #2. The Board finds these comparables, despite having less living area than the subject, are very similar in location, story height, frame and masonry construction, age and most features. Board of review comparables #1 and #2 have improvement assessments of \$23.10 and \$23.83 per square foot of living area, respectively. The subject's improvement assessment of \$22.21 per square foot of living area is less than the improvement assessments of the best comparables in this record. After considering adjustments to the comparables for differences from 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.

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: August 20, 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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