



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

APPELLANT: Paula Wexler  
DOCKET NO.: 16-21750.001-R-1  
PARCEL NO.: 05-06-201-031-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Paula Wexler, the appellant, by attorney Abby L. Strauss, of Schiller Strauss & Lavin PC 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:** \$95,477  
**IMPR.:** \$227,286  
**TOTAL:** \$322,763

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 2-story dwelling of stone exterior construction with 6,587 square feet of living area. The dwelling is approximately 9 years old. Features of the home include a full finished basement, central air conditioning, three fireplaces and a 3-car garage. The property has a 43,358 square foot site and is located in Glencoe, New Trier Township, Cook County. The subject is classified as a class 2-09 property under the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance.

The appellant contends overvaluation as the basis of the appeal. In support of this argument the appellant submitted an appraisal estimating the subject property had a market value of \$2,900,000 as of January 1, 2016. The appraisal was prepared by Charles Schwarz, a certified residential real estate appraiser. In estimating the market value of the subject property, the appraiser developed the sales comparison approach to value.

Under the sales comparison approach, the appraiser analyzed four comparable sales located from .25 to 2.0 miles from the subject property. The comparables consist of 2-story dwellings that range in age from 5 to 18 years old. The dwellings have full finished basements, central air conditioning, from three to five fireplaces and 3-car garages. The dwellings range in size from 6,065 to 7,829 square feet of living area and are situated on sites ranging in size from 12,336 to 48,265 square feet of land area. The comparables sold from June 2014 to May 2016 for prices ranging from \$2,500,000 to \$3,400,000 or from \$412.20 to \$480.92 per square foot of living area including land. The appraiser made adjustments to each comparable for differences from the subject property to arrive at adjusted prices ranging from \$2,881,600 to \$3,387,451. The appellant requested the total assessment be reduced to \$290,000 which would reflect the appraised value.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" disclosing the total assessment for the subject of \$341,855. The subject's assessment reflects a market value of \$3,418,550 or \$518.98<sup>1</sup> per square foot of living area, land included, when using the level of assessments for class 2 property of 10% under the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance.

In support of the subject's assessment, the board of review submitted information on three comparable sales and one equity comparable<sup>2</sup> located within the same neighborhood code as the subject property. The comparables consist of 2-story dwellings that range in age from 9 to 88 years old. The dwellings have partial or full basements, with two having finished area, central air conditioning, two or four fireplaces and from 2-car to 4-car garages. The dwellings range in size from 5,574 to 7,770 square feet of living area and are situated on sites ranging from 21,750 to 38,957 square feet of land area. The comparables sold from September 2013 to April 2016 for prices ranging from \$2,450,000 to \$3,650,000 or from \$315.32 to \$645.86 per square foot of living area including land. Based on this evidence, the board of review requested confirmation of the subject's assessment.

In written rebuttal, counsel for the appellant critiqued the board of review's submission.

### **Conclusion of Law**

The appellant contends the market value of the subject property is not accurately reflected in its assessed valuation. When market value is the basis of the appeal the value of the property must be proved by a preponderance of the evidence. 86 Ill.Admin.Code §1910.63(e). Proof of market value may consist of an appraisal of the subject property, a recent sale, comparable sales or construction costs. 86 Ill.Admin.Code §1910.65(c). The Board finds the appellant met this burden of proof and a reduction in the subject's assessment is warranted.

---

<sup>1</sup> The appellant's appraiser reported a dwelling size of 6,587 square feet of living area while the board of review reported a dwelling size of 6,452. The Board finds the best evidence is a detailed schematic drawing contained within the appellant's January 2016 appraisal. The Board finds the slight size discrepancy does not prevent determining the correct assessment of this record.

<sup>2</sup> The board of review included an equity comparable in the grid analysis which will not be further addressed on this record as the Board finds equity data is not responsive to the appellant's overvaluation argument.

The record contains an appraisal submitted by the appellant and three comparable sales provided by the board of review. The Board gives the final opinion of value found in the appraisal little weight due to lack of adjustments for location and date of sale in relation to a 2016 market value date given that comparable sale #3 sold June 2014 and comparable sale #3 and #4 are located two miles from the subject property. Given the record, the Board will consider the raw sales data presented by both parties.

The Board gave less weight to the appellant's comparable sales #3 and #4 due to their distant location and/or 2014 sale date which is not proximate in January 1, 2016 assessment date at issue. Less weight was also given to board of review comparable sales #1 and #4 due to their 2013 or 2014 sale dates which is not proximate in time to the January 1, 2016 assessment date at issue. Furthermore, less weight was given to the board of review comparable #3 due to its smaller size when compared to the subject property. The Board finds the appellant's comparable sales #1 and #2 are proximate in time to the January 1, 2016 assessment date and more similar when compared to the subject in location, age, size, dwelling design, exterior construction and features. These comparables sold April or May 2016 for prices of \$2,850,000 and \$3,075,000 or \$425.63 and \$480.92 per square foot of living area including land. The subject's assessment reflects an estimated market value of \$3,418,550 or \$519.98 per square foot of living area including land, which falls above the best comparables established in this record. Based on this evidence the Board finds the subject is overvalued and a reduction in the 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(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: June 18, 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

State of Illinois  
Property Tax Appeal Board  
William G. Stratton Building, Room 402  
401 South Spring Street  
Springfield, IL 62706-4001

APPELLANT

Paula Wexler, by attorney:  
Abby L. Strauss  
Schiller Strauss & Lavin PC  
33 North Dearborn  
Suite 650  
Chicago, IL 60602

COUNTY

Cook County Board of Review  
County Building, Room 601  
118 North Clark Street  
Chicago, IL 60602