



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

APPELLANT: James Schummer  
DOCKET NO.: 16-22650.001-R-1  
PARCEL NO.: 05-34-403-002-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are James Schummer, the appellant, by attorney Steven Kandelman, of Rieff Schramm Kanter & Guttman 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:** \$17,100  
**IMPR.:** \$80,403  
**TOTAL:** \$97,503

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 stucco exterior construction with 2,968 square feet of living area. The dwelling is approximately 108 years old. Features of the home include a full finished basement, central air conditioning, a fireplace and a 3-car garage. The property has a 9,000 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 eight equity comparables with the same neighborhood and classification codes as the subject property. The comparables are improved with 2-story dwellings that range in age from 99 to 120 years old. The comparables have partial or full basements, four of which have finished area and 2-car or 2.5-car garages. Three of the

comparables have central air conditioning and six of the comparables have one or two fireplaces. The dwellings range in size from 2,275 to 3,647 square feet of living area and have improvement assessments ranging from \$58,545 to \$90,468 or from \$20.17 to \$25.85 per square foot of living area. The appellant requested the improvement assessment be reduced to \$68,709 or \$23.15 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 \$97,503. The subject property has an improvement assessment of \$80,403 or \$27.09 per square foot of living area. In support of its contention of the correct assessment the board of review submitted information on four equity comparables with the same neighborhood and classification codes as the subject property. The comparables are improved with 2-story dwellings that range in age from 95 to 108 years old. The comparables have full unfinished basements and 2-car garages. Three of the comparables have central air conditioning and/or one to three fireplaces. The dwellings range in size from 2,711 to 2,993 square feet of living area and have improvement assessments ranging from \$78,279 to \$83,920 or from \$27.53 to \$28.87 per square foot of living area. 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 noting the evidence should be given no weight because the comparables lacked adjustments. Counsel also requested the Board take notice that the appellant submitted a 2017 board of review decision that indicates the subject's total assessment was reduced to \$85,809.

### **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 information on a total of 12 suggested equity comparables for the Board's consideration. The Board gave less weight to the appellant's comparables #2 and #3 due to their larger or smaller dwelling size when compared to the subject property. The Board finds the six remaining appellant's comparables and the board of review comparables are more similar when compared to the subject in location, age, dwelling size, design and most features. These comparables had improvement assessments ranging from \$58,545 to \$83,920 or from \$20.17 to \$28.87 per square foot of living area. The subject's improvement assessment of \$80,403 or \$27.09 per square foot of living area falls within the range established by the best comparables contained in this record. Based on this record, 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 appellant also submitted a copy of the 2017 board of review decision that indicates the subject's total assessment was reduced to \$85,809. The Board finds the comparables support the current assessment, therefore, the Board finds a reduction on this basis 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: July 16, 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

AGENCY

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

APPELLANT

James Schummer, by attorney:  
Steven Kandelman  
Rieff Schramm Kanter & Guttman  
100 North LaSalle Street  
Suite 2300  
Chicago, IL 60602

COUNTY

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