



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

APPELLANT: Robert Gecht
DOCKET NO.: 16-22927.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 14-29-222-017-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Robert Gecht, the appellant, by attorney John S. Xydakis, of the Law Offices of John S. Xydakis 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: \$28,122
IMPR.: \$35,960
TOTAL: \$64,082

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, multi-family dwelling of masonry construction. The dwelling is 127 years old and has 2,476 square feet of living area. Features of the dwelling include two bathrooms, a full unfinished basement and a two-car garage. The property has a 4,687 square-foot site and is located in Chicago, Lake View Township, Cook County. The subject is classified as a class 2-11 property under the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance.

The appellant contends assessment inequity as the basis of the appeal. The subject's land assessment is not being contested in this appeal. In support of the inequity argument, the appellant submitted information on four equity comparables with the same neighborhood and classification codes as the subject. The comparables are improved with two-story dwellings of frame or masonry construction. The dwellings are from 105 to 132 years old and contain from

2,244 to 2,990 square feet of living area. Two comparables have basements; one comparable has central air conditioning; and two comparables have fireplaces. Information regarding garages was not provided on the appellant's grid analysis. The appellant also submitted a map which revealed the comparables were located near the subject property. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$21,570 to \$35,820 or from \$9.03 to \$11.98 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested a reduction in the subject's improvement assessment to \$26,270 or \$10.60 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 \$64,082 was disclosed. The subject property has an improvement assessment of \$35,960 or \$14.52 per square foot of living area. The board of review presented descriptions and assessment information on four comparable properties with the same neighborhood and classification codes as the subject.¹ Two of the comparables were described as being located on the same block as the subject property, and the other two were described as being located a quarter-mile from the subject. The comparables are improved with two-story, multi-family dwellings of masonry construction. The dwellings are from 105 to 125 years old and contain from 2,218 to 2,698 square feet of living area. Three comparables have full unfinished basements, and one comparable has a crawl-space foundation. Each comparable has a two-car garage; two comparables have central air conditioning; and two comparables have two fireplaces. The board of review's comparable properties have improvement assessments ranging from \$33,952 to \$51,433 or from \$15.13 to \$20.33 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 eight comparable properties. However, the appellant's comparable #2 is the same property as board of review comparable #4. Moreover, the parties provided conflicting evidence with respect to this property's improvement assessment. Based on the information provided, the Board could not determine the correct improvement assessment for this property. In addition, the Board finds the appellant's comparables #1 and #4 and board of review comparable #2 differed from the subject in foundation. Consequently, the appellant's comparables #1, #2 and #4 and board of review comparable #4 received reduced weight in the Board's analysis.

¹ Board of review comparable #4 is the same property as the appellant's comparable #2; however, the parties provided different improvement assessments for this property. The appellant claims the property located at 1019 West Oakdale in Chicago has an improvement assessment of \$21,570 or \$9.61 per square foot of living area. The board of review claims this property had an improvement assessment of \$33,952 or \$15.13 per square foot of living area. Neither party submitted documentation in support of these claims.

The Board finds the best evidence of assessment equity to be the appellant's comparable #3 and board of review comparables #1 and #3. The Board finds these comparables were similar to the subject in location, classification code, story height, age, living area and foundation. These comparables had improvement assessments that ranged from \$31,050 to \$51,433 or from \$11.61 to \$20.33 per square foot of living area. The subject's improvement assessment of \$35,960 or \$14.52 per square foot of living area falls within the range established by 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: May 21, 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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