



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

APPELLANT: CSMA BLT, LLC  
DOCKET NO.: 17-01046.001-R-1  
PARCEL NO.: 08-17-400-022

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are CSMA BLT, LLC, the appellant, by attorney Abby L. Strauss, of Schiller Strauss & Lavin PC in Chicago; and the Lake 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 Lake County Board of Review is warranted. The correct assessed valuation of the property is:

**LAND:** \$5,548  
**IMPR.:** \$16,168  
**TOTAL:** \$21,716

Subject only to the State multiplier as applicable.

**Statement of Jurisdiction**

The appellant timely filed the appeal from a decision of the Lake County Board of Review pursuant to section 16-160 of the Property Tax Code (35 ILCS 200/16-160) challenging the assessment for the 2017 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 one-story single-family dwelling with wood-siding containing 800 square feet of living area. The dwelling was constructed in 1952. Features of the home include a full unfinished basement, central air conditioning and a 528-square foot detached garage that was built in 2004. The property has a 6,244-square foot site and is located in Waukegan, Waukegan Township, Lake County.

The appellant contends assessment inequity with respect to the improvement as the basis of the appeal. In support of this argument, the appellant submitted information on six equity comparables located within .33 of a mile of the subject and in the same neighborhood code as the subject property as assigned by the local assessor. The properties are improved with one-story dwellings with wood-siding ranging in size from 818 to 975 square feet of living area. The dwellings were built from 1952 to 1956. Each home has an unfinished basement and one dwelling has central air conditioning. These comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$5,122 to \$15,866 or from \$5.72 to \$17.03 per square foot of living area. The

appellant requested the subject's improvement assessment be reduced to \$11,928 or \$14.91 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 \$21,716. The subject property has an improvement assessment of \$16,168 or \$20.21 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 located within .355 of a mile of the subject property and within the same neighborhood code as the subject as assigned by the local assessor. The comparables are improved with one-story single-family dwellings with wood-siding or brick exterior construction ranging in size from 750 to 800 square feet of living area. The dwellings were constructed from 1950 to 1963. The comparables each feature an unfinished basement and a garage ranging in size from 280 to 1,232 square feet of building area. These properties have improvement assessments ranging from \$14,510 to \$17,341 or from \$19.35 to \$21.68 per square foot of living area. The board of review submission also included property record cards for the subject and its comparables, along with a narrative brief prepared by the township assessor critiquing the appellant's equity comparables pointing out none have a garage, only one has central air conditioning and appellant's comparable #1 is "in very poor condition and is not habitable." The board of review also provided rent listing data for the subject. 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 submitted a total of ten equity comparables for the Board's consideration with varying degrees of similarity to the subject property. The Board gave less weight to appellant's comparables based on these properties not having a garage, unlike the subject. Moreover, appellant's comparable #1 appears to be uninhabitable.

The Board finds the best evidence of assessment equity to be the four equity comparables submitted by the board of review. These properties were similar to the subject in location, design, age, dwelling sizes and some features, although none have central air conditioning like the subject. These properties have improvement assessments ranging from \$14,510 to \$17,341 or from \$19.35 to \$21.68 per square foot of living area. The subject's improvement assessment of \$16,168 or \$20.21 per square foot of living area falls within the range established by the best comparables in this record. After considering adjustments to some comparables for differences from the subject, the Board finds that the appellant did not demonstrate by a clear and

convincing evidence that the subject is inequitably assessed and, therefore, no reduction in the subject's assessment is 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.



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: April 21, 2020



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

CSMA BLT, LLC, by attorney:  
Abby L. Strauss  
Schiller Strauss & Lavin PC  
33 North Dearborn  
Suite 1130  
Chicago, IL 60602

COUNTY

Lake County Board of Review  
Lake County Courthouse  
18 North County Street, 7th Floor  
Waukegan, IL 60085