



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

APPELLANT: CSMA BLT, LLC
DOCKET NO.: 17-01781.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 08-19-404-026

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: \$6,569
IMPR.: \$13,527
TOTAL: \$20,096

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 consists of a 1-story dwelling of wood siding exterior construction with 739 square feet of living area. The dwelling was constructed in 1940 and features an unfinished basement. The property has a 6,209 square foot site and is located in Waukegan, Waukegan Township, Lake County.

The appellant contends assessment inequity with respect to the improvement assessment as the basis of the appeal. In support of this argument, the appellant submitted information on six equity comparables located in the same neighborhood as the subject property. The comparables consist of 1.5-story dwellings of wood siding exterior construction ranging in size from 998 to 1,344 square feet of living area. The dwellings were constructed from 1925 to 1940. The comparables each feature an unfinished basement, one comparable has central air conditioning, one comparable has a fireplace and five comparables each have a garage ranging in size from

280 to 528 square feet of building area. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$2,543 to \$19,727 or from \$2.55 to \$15.73 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested a reduction in the subject's improvement assessment.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" disclosing the total assessment for the subject of \$20,096. The subject property has an improvement assessment of \$13,527 or \$18.30 per square foot of living area.

In support of its contention of the correct assessment, the board of review submitted information on six equity comparables located in the same neighborhood as the subject property. The comparables consist of three, 1-story dwellings and three, 1.5-story dwellings of wood siding exterior construction ranging in size from 663 to 1,196 square feet of living area. The comparables were built from 1928 to 1950. The comparables each feature an unfinished basement, two comparables have central air conditioning and each comparable has a garage ranging in size from 315 to 576 square feet of building area. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$12,665 to \$22,228 or from \$17.68 to \$20.39 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence, the board of review requested that the subject's assessment be confirmed.

Conclusion of Law

The appellant 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 12 equity comparables for the Board's consideration. The Board gave less weight to the appellant's comparables which are dissimilar in design, dwelling size and/or age when compared to the subject. In addition, the appellant's comparable #2 appears to be an outlier with an improvement assessment of \$2.55 per square foot of living area. The Board also gave reduced weight to board of review comparable #2 which differed from the subject in age and board of review comparables #4 through #6 which are dissimilar in design and larger in dwelling size when compared to the subject.

The Board finds comparables #1 and #3 submitted by the board of review are most similar to the subject in location, dwelling size, design and age, however, each has a garage unlike the subject. These comparables have improvement assessments of \$20.39 and \$19.10 per square foot of living area, respectively. The subject property has an improvement assessment of \$18.30 per square foot of living area, which falls below the two more similar comparables in the record but is also supported given its lack of a garage. After considering any necessary adjustments to the comparables for differences, when compared to the subject, the Board finds the evidence demonstrates the subject's improvement assessment is justified. 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 no reduction in the subject's 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: May 26, 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

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COUNTY

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