



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

APPELLANT: Christopher Geier  
DOCKET NO.: 17-20124.001-R-1  
PARCEL NO.: 01-04-301-005-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Christopher Geier, the appellant, by attorney Robert Rosenfeld, of Robert H. Rosenfeld and Associates, LLC 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:** \$16,335  
**IMPR.:** \$44,016  
**TOTAL:** \$60,351

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 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 1.5-story dwelling of frame and masonry exterior construction with 3,144 square feet of living area. The dwelling is approximately 45 years old. Features of the home include a partial basement with finished area, central air conditioning and two fireplaces. The property has a 217,800 square foot site and is located in Barrington Hills, Barrington Township, Cook County. The subject is classified as a class 2-04 property under the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance.

The appellant contends improvement assessment inequity as the basis of the appeal. In support of this argument, the appellant submitted information on three equity comparables located in the same neighborhood code as the subject. The comparables are improved with similar class 2-04

dwellings<sup>1</sup> of masonry or frame and masonry exterior construction ranging in size from 3,400 to 3,827 square feet of living area. The comparables range in age from 37 to 63 years old. Each comparable has a partial or a full basement with two having finished areas. Each comparable has central air conditioning, one or two fireplaces and a 2.5-car or a 3-car garage. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$44,630 to \$60,568 or from \$11.78 to \$15.83 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested that the improvement assessment be reduced to \$43,293 or \$13.77 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 \$115,270. The subject property has an improvement assessment of \$98,935 or \$31.47 per square foot of living area. In support of its contention of the correct assessment, the board of review submitted information on one equity comparable located in the same neighborhood code as the subject property. The comparable is improved with a 1-story dwelling of masonry exterior construction containing 6,029 square feet of living area. The comparable is 17 years old and includes a partial basement with finished area, central air conditioning, three fireplaces and a 3.5-car garage. The comparable has an improvement assessment of \$375,914 or \$62.35 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence, the board of review requested the assessment be confirmed.

### **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 met this burden of proof and a reduction in the subject's assessment is warranted.

The parties submitted four suggested comparables for the Board's consideration. The Board gave most weight to the appellant's comparables as they are most similar to the subject property in location, design, and some features, except the appellant's comparable #3 is older and would require an upward adjustment for age and each comparable has a garage which the subject lacks. The best comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$44,630 to \$60,568 or from \$11.78 to \$15.83 per square foot of living area. The subject's improvement assessment of \$98,935 or \$31.47 per square foot of living area exceeds the range of the best comparables in this record. Therefore, the Board finds the subject's assessment is not supported by the evidence in this record. The Board gave less weight to the board of review's comparable due to its significantly larger dwelling size when compared to the subject. After considering adjustments to the comparables for differences when compared to the subject, the Board finds the appellant demonstrated with clear and convincing evidence that the subject's improvement was inequitably assessed and a reduction in the subject's assessment is justified.

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<sup>1</sup> The appellant did not disclose the story height in the assessment grid analysis. The photographs submitted by the appellant were insufficient to determine the story height/design for all comparables in this record.

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: January 21, 2020



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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

Christopher Geier, by attorney:  
Robert Rosenfeld  
Robert H. Rosenfeld and Associates, LLC  
33 North Dearborn Street  
Suite 1850  
Chicago, IL 60602

COUNTY

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