



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

APPELLANT: Susan Carter
DOCKET NO.: 17-20964.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 16-07-203-010-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Susan Carter, the appellant, by attorney Michael R. Davies, of Ryan Law LLP 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: \$7,353
IMPR.: \$55,080
TOTAL: \$62,433

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 two-story dwelling of masonry exterior construction with 2,262 square feet of living area. The dwelling is 94 years old. Features of the home include a full finished basement, central air conditioning, one fireplace, and a 2-car garage. The property has a 7,740 square foot site and is located in Oak Park, Oak Park Township, Cook County. The subject dwelling is classified as a class 2-06 property under the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance.

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 five equity comparables that are located within the same neighborhood code as the subject property. The comparables are improved with two-story dwellings of frame exterior construction ranging in size from 2,265 to 2,782 square feet of living area. The dwellings range in age from 127 to 133

years old, and each have a partial or full unfinished basement. Three comparables each have one or two fireplaces, and four comparables each have a garage ranging from a 1.5-car to a 4-car. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$3,657 to \$55,137 or from \$1.32 to \$20.33 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested that the improvement assessment be reduced to \$2,986 or \$1.32 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 \$62,433. The subject property has an improvement assessment of \$55,080 or \$24.35 per square foot of living area. In support of its contention of the correct assessment, the board of review submitted information on three equity comparables that are located within the same neighborhood code as the subject property. The comparables are improved with two-story dwellings of frame exterior construction ranging in size from 2,421 to 3,080 square feet of living area. The dwellings range in age from 114 to 131 years old. Each comparable has a full basement with one having finished area, central air conditioning, and one fireplace. Two comparables have either a 2-car or a 4-car garage. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$61,746 to \$84,950 or from \$25.50 to \$28.92 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 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 eight suggested comparables for the Board's consideration, none of which are truly similar to the subject property. Both parties' comparables have varying degrees of dissimilarities when compared to the subject including the dwellings considerably older age, larger dwelling size, lack of a finished basement, and/or lack of a garage. The Board also finds the appellant's comparable #1 appears to be an outlier in comparison to the other comparables in this record with its significantly lower improvement and per square foot assessments.

The Board finds the most similar evidence of assessment equity to be the appellant's comparables #3 and #4 as well as the board of review comparable #2. The Board gives greater weight to these three comparables because they are closer in dwelling size and most similar to the subject in other property characteristics, except for the dwellings considerably older ages and partial or full unfinished basement area in contrast to the subject's full finished basement. These three comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$49,861 to \$61,746 and either \$19.51 or \$25.50 per square foot of living area. The subject's improvement assessment of \$55,080 or \$24.35 per square foot of living area falls within the range established by the three most similar comparables contained in this record. After considering adjustments to the comparables for differences when compared to the subject, such as the dwellings older ages and

unfinished basements, 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 constitutional provision for uniformity of taxation and valuation does not require mathematical equality. A practical uniformity, rather than an absolute one, is the test. Apex Motor Fuel Co. v. Barrett, 20 Ill.2d 395 (1960). Although the comparables presented by the parties disclosed that the properties located in the same area are not assessed at identical levels, all that the constitution requires is a practical uniformity, which appears to exist on the basis of the evidence.

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: November 17, 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

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