



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

APPELLANT: William Althoff  
DOCKET NO.: 17-23057.001-R-1  
PARCEL NO.: 05-20-225-010-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are William Althoff, 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 **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:** \$14,960  
**IMPR.:** \$96,680  
**TOTAL:** \$111,640

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 frame and masonry exterior construction with 3,223 square feet of living area. The dwelling is approximately 23 years old. Features of the home include a partial unfinished basement, central air conditioning, two fireplaces and a two-car garage. The property has a 9,350 square foot site located in Winnetka, New Trier Township, Cook County. The subject is classified as a class 2-78 property under the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance.

The subject property is an owner-occupied residence that was the subject matter of an appeal before the Property Tax Appeal Board the prior year under Docket Number 16-21089.001-R-1.<sup>1</sup> In that appeal the Property Tax Appeal Board rendered a decision lowering the assessment of the

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<sup>1</sup> The appellant's mailing address is the same as the subject property's address.

subject property to \$113,583. The board of review also reported that 2016 was the beginning of the subject's general assessment cycle in its submission.

For this 2017 tax year appeal, 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 three equity comparables that are located within the same neighborhood code as the subject property. The comparables are improved with two-story dwellings of masonry or frame and masonry exterior construction ranging in size from 3,022 to 3,520 square feet of living area. The comparables range in age from 16 to 54 years old. Each comparable has a full basement with one having finished area. Each comparable has central air conditioning, one fireplace and a two-car garage. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$81,451 to \$95,388 and \$26.95 or \$27.10 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested that the subject's improvement assessment be reduced to \$87,021 or \$27.00 per square foot of living area.

The appellant's submission included a copy of the "Cook County Board of Review" final decision dated December 2, 2017 disclosing the subject has a total assessment of \$111,640. The submission by the appellant also revealed that the subject has a land assessment of \$14,960 and an improvement assessment of \$96,680 or \$30.00 per square foot of living area.

The board of review did not submit its "Board of Review Note on Appeal" nor any evidence in support of its assessed valuation of the subject property and was found to be in default by letter dated August 15, 2019.

### **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 pursuant to Section 16-185 of the Property Tax Code a reduction in the subject's assessment is not warranted.

The Board finds the subject property is an owner-occupied residence that was the subject matter of an appeal before the Property Tax Appeal Board for the 2016 tax year under Docket Number 16-21089.001-R-1. In that appeal, the Property Tax Appeal Board issued a decision lowering the assessment of the subject property to \$113,583.

Section 16-185 of the Property Tax Code (35 ILCS 200/16-185) provides in part:

If the Property Tax Appeal Board renders a decision lowering the assessment of a particular parcel on which a residence occupied by the owner is situated, such reduced assessment, subject to equalization, shall remain in effect for the remainder of the general assessment period as provided in Sections 9-215 through 9-225, unless that parcel is subsequently sold in an arm's length transaction establishing a fair cash value for the parcel that is different from the fair cash

value on which the Board's assessment is based, or unless the decision of the Property Tax Appeal Board is reversed or modified upon review. (35 ILCS 200/16-185)

The Board finds that if the prior year's decision was carried forward to the 2017 tax year pursuant to section 16-185 of the Property Tax Code (35 ILCS 200/16-185) this would result in an increase in assessment. The board of review did not request an increase in the assessed valuation. The evidence disclosed that 2016 and 2017 are within the same general assessment period for New Trier Township. Additionally, the appellant's appeal form indicates the property is owner occupied since the appellant has the same mailing address as the subject property. The record contains no evidence indicating that the assessment year in question is in a different general assessment period. For these reasons, the Property Tax Appeal Board finds that a reduction in the subject's assessment is not 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:

February 16, 2021



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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