



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

APPELLANT: Mahmoud Matarieh
DOCKET NO.: 17-33901.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 24-18-322-021-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Mahmoud Matarieh, the appellant, by attorney George N. Reveliotis, of Reveliotis Law, P.C. in Park Ridge; 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: \$2,943
IMPR.: \$13,226
TOTAL: \$16,169

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 multi-level dwelling of frame exterior construction with 1,151 square feet of living area. The dwelling is approximately 44 years old. The home features a partial basement with finished area. The property has a 6,540 square foot site and is located in Worth, Worth Township, Cook County. The subject is classified as a class 2-34 property under the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance.

The appellant contends overvaluation and assessment inequity as the bases of the appeal. The appellant's land assessment was not contested. In support of the overvaluation argument the appellant submitted information on four comparable sales located in the same neighborhood code as the subject property. The comparables were improved with similar class 2-34 dwellings of frame and masonry exterior construction that range in size from 1,161 to 1,700 square feet of living area. The dwellings range in age from 30 to 56 years old. The comparables have sites

ranging in size from 7,500 to 16,875 square feet of land area. Each comparable has a partial basement with finished area, three comparables have central air conditioning, two comparables have a fireplace and each comparable has either a one and one-half-car or a two-car garage. The comparables sold from March 2015 to November 2017 for prices ranging from \$145,000 to \$200,000 or from \$108.42 to \$124.89 per square foot of living area, land included.

In support of the inequity argument the appellant submitted six equity comparables located in the same neighborhood code and within 0.22 of a mile from the subject property. The comparables were improved with multi-level dwellings of masonry or frame and masonry exterior construction that ranged in size from 1,144 to 1,375 square feet of living area. The dwellings range in age from 37 to 54 years old. Each comparable has a partial basement with finished area, three comparables have central air conditioning, two comparables have one or two fireplaces and five comparables have a two-car garage. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$10,918 to \$15,092 or from \$9.54 to \$11.00 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested that the subject's assessment be reduced.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" disclosing the total assessment for the subject of \$16,169. The subject's assessment reflects a market value of \$161,690 or \$140.48 per square foot of living area, including land, when using the level of assessment for class 2 property of 10% under the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance. The subject has an improvement assessment of \$13,226 or \$11.49 per square foot of living area.

In support of its contention of the correct assessment the board of review submitted information on four comparable sales located in the subarea or within one-fourth of a mile of the subject. The comparables are improved with multi-level dwellings of frame or frame and masonry exterior construction that range in size from 1,013 to 1,165 square feet of living area. The dwellings range in age from 30 to 53 years old. The comparables have sites that contain either 6,674 or 7,500 square feet of land area. Each comparable has a partial basement with finished area, central air conditioning, one comparable has a fireplace and each comparable has a two-car garage. The comparables sold in August or October 2016 for prices ranging from \$175,000 to \$196,000 or from \$162.34 to \$191.51 per square foot of living area, land included.

In support of the contention that the subject property is equitably assessed the board of review submitted information on four equity comparables located in the same neighborhood code and in the same block or within one-fourth of a mile from the subject. The comparables are improved with multi-level dwellings of frame exterior construction that range in size from 1,056 to 1,122 square feet of living area. The dwellings are either 45 or 53 years old. Each comparable has a partial basement with finished area, three comparables have central air conditioning and each comparable has a two-car garage. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$12,703 to \$15,177 or from \$11.95 to \$14.24 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence, the board of review requested confirmation of the subject's assessment.

Conclusion of Law

The appellant contends in part that the market value of the subject property is not accurately reflected in its assessed valuation. When market value is the basis of the appeal the value of the

property must be proved by a preponderance of the evidence. 86 Ill.Admin.Code §1910.63(e). Proof of market value may consist of an appraisal of the subject property, a recent sale, comparable sales or construction costs. 86 Ill.Admin.Code §1910.65(c). 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 comparable sales for the Board's consideration. The Board gave less weight to the appellant's comparable #2 as this comparable sold in March 2015, which is dated and less likely to be indicative of fair market value as of the subject's January 1, 2017 assessment date. The Board gave less weight to the appellant's comparable #3 as this property has a considerably larger site when compared to the subject.

The Board finds the best evidence of market value to be appellant's comparable sales #1 and #4 along with the board of review comparable sales. These comparables have varying degrees of similarity in site size, age, dwelling size and some features. These comparables sold for prices ranging from \$145,000 to \$196,000 or from \$110.59 to \$191.51 per square foot of living area, including land. The subject's assessment reflects a market value of \$161,690 or \$140.48 per square foot of living area, including land, which falls within the range established by the best comparable sales in this record. After considering adjustments to the comparable sales for differences when compared to the subject, the Board finds the subject's estimated market value as reflected by the assessment is supported. Based on this evidence the Board finds no reduction in the subject's assessment is justified.

The taxpayer also 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 ten equity comparables for the Board's consideration. The Board gave less weight to the appellant's comparables #3, #5 and #6 along with the board of review comparables #1, #2 and #4 as these properties have central air conditioning, which the subject property lacks.

The Board finds the best evidence of assessment equity to be appellant's comparables #1, #2 and #4 along with the board of review comparable #3. These comparables have varying degrees of similarity in age, dwelling size and features. These comparables had improvement assessments that ranged from \$12,703 to \$15,092 or from \$9.78 to \$12.03 per square foot of living area. The subject's improvement assessment of \$13,226 or \$11.49 per square foot of living area falls within the range established by the best comparables in this record. 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 a reduction in the subject's assessment is not justified.

The constitutional provision for uniformity of taxation and valuation does not require mathematical equality. The requirement is satisfied if the intent is evident to adjust the burden with a reasonable degree of uniformity and if such is the effect of the statute enacted by the General Assembly establishing the method of assessing real property in its general operation. 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 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. For the foregoing reasons, the Board finds that the appellant has not proven by clear and convincing evidence that the subject property is inequitably assessed. 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 20, 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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