



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

APPELLANT: Lawrence Levin
DOCKET NO.: 17-41625.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 04-08-104-006-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Lawrence Levin, the appellant, by attorney Abby L. Strauss, of Schiller Law P.C., 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: \$13,209
IMPR.: \$66,113
TOTAL: \$79,322

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 4,651 square feet of living area. The dwelling is approximately 32 years old. Features of the home include a full unfinished basement, central air conditioning, a fireplace and a three-car garage. The property has a 12,580 square foot site and is located in Northbrook, Northfield Township, Cook County. The subject is classified as a class 2-08 property under the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance.

The appellant contends assessment inequity concerning the improvement as the basis of the appeal. In support of this argument, the appellant submitted information on four equity comparables located within the same neighborhood code as the subject property. The comparables consist of similar class 2-08 dwellings of frame or frame and masonry exterior construction. The homes range in age from 25 to 59 years old and range in size from 4,310 to

4,673 square feet of living area. Each comparable has a full or partial unfinished basement, central air conditioning, and a garage ranging from 2-car to 3.5-car garage. Three of the comparables each have a fireplace. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$40,744 to \$52,716 or from \$9.39 to \$11.28 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested a reduced improvement assessment of \$48,929 or \$10.52 per square foot of living area.¹

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" disclosing the total assessment for the subject of \$79,322. The subject property has an improvement assessment of \$66,113 or \$14.21 per square foot of living area.

In support of its contention of the correct assessment, the board of review submitted information on four equity comparables located within the same neighborhood code as the subject property and on the same street/block as the subject. The comparables consist of similar class 2-08 two-story dwellings of masonry or frame and masonry exterior construction. The homes are either 32 or 33 years old and range in size from 3,829 to 4,503 square feet of living area. Each comparable has a full unfinished basement, central air conditioning, a fireplace and a garage ranging from two-car to three-car garage. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$55,980 to \$69,218 or from \$14.52 to \$16.93 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 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 a total of eight equity comparables to support their respective positions before the Property Tax Appeal Board. The Board has given reduced weight to appellant's comparable #1 due to its substantially older age than the subject 32-year-old dwelling. The Board has given reduced weight to board of review comparable #1 due to its substantially smaller dwelling size when compared to the 4,651 square foot subject dwelling.

The Board finds the best evidence of assessment equity to be appellant's comparables #2, #3 and #4 along with board of review comparables #2, #3 and #4. These six comparables have varying degrees of similarity to the subject in location, age, size and/or features. The comparables had improvement assessments that ranged from \$43,822 to \$69,218 or from \$10.17 to \$16.93 per square foot of living area. The subject's improvement assessment of \$66,113 or \$14.21 per

¹ As the appellant incorrectly reported the final land assessment of the subject property in the petition, the Board has implied the requested improvement assessment reduction in order to retain the appellant's total requested assessment.

square foot of living area falls within the range established by the best comparables in this record and appears particularly well-supported by the comparables presented by the board of review which are closest in proximity to the subject being on the same street and on the same block.

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 taxation 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, the Property Tax Appeal Board finds that the subject's assessment as established by the board of review is correct and no reduction 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: June 8, 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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