



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

APPELLANT: Christine Gerentes
DOCKET NO.: 17-42199.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 04-17-214-016-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Christine Gerentes, 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: \$13,817
IMPR.: \$33,212
TOTAL: \$47,029

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 2,473 square feet of living area. The dwelling is 47 years old. Features of the home include a full unfinished basement, central air conditioning, and a two-car garage. The property has a 12,015 square foot site and is located in Northbrook, Northfield Township, Cook County. The subject is classified as a class 2-78 property under the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance.

The appellant contends overvaluation and assessment inequity with respect to the improvement as the bases of the appeal. In support of the overvaluation argument the appellant submitted information on four comparable sales that have the same neighborhood code as the subject. The comparables have sites that range in size from 10,625 to 13,775 square feet of land area. The comparables are improved with class 2-78 dwellings of frame and masonry exterior construction

that range in size from 2,569 to 2,837 square feet of living area and range in age from 40 to 52 years old. Each comparable has a partial or a full basement with one having finished area, central air conditioning, one fireplace, and a two-car garage. The properties sold from April 2015 to October 2017 for prices ranging from \$410,000 to \$490,000 or from \$152.53 to \$184.63 per square foot of living area, land included.

In support of the inequity argument, the appellant submitted information on four equity comparables that have the same neighborhood code and classification code as the subject and within .04 of a mile from the subject. The comparables are improved with two-story dwellings of frame and masonry exterior construction that have 2,473 or 2,837 square feet of living area and range in age from 45 to 48 years old. The comparables each have a partial or a full basement with one having finished area. Each comparable has central air conditioning, a fireplace, and a two-car garage. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$29,651 to \$34,384 or from \$11.99 to \$12.47 per square foot of living area.

Based on this evidence, the appellant requested the subject's assessment be reduced to \$41,163, reflecting a market value of \$411,630 or \$166.45 per square foot of living area, land included, when applying the level of assessment for class 2 property under the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance of 10%. The request would lower the subject's improvement assessment to \$27,346 or \$11.06 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 \$47,029. The subject's assessment reflects a market value of \$470,290 or \$190.17 per square foot of living area, including land, when applying the level of assessment for class 2 property under the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance of 10%. The subject has an improvement assessment of \$33,212 or \$13.43 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 that have the same neighborhood code and classification code as the subject. The comparables are improved with two-story dwellings of frame and masonry exterior construction that range in size from 2,473 to 2,837 square feet of living area. The dwellings are 48 years old. The comparables each have a partial or a full unfinished basement and a two-car garage. Three comparable each central air conditioning and a fireplace. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$33,170 to \$39,435 or from \$13.41 to \$15.95 per square foot of living area.

The board of review failed to address the appellant's overvaluation argument with market value evidence.

Based on this equity evidence, the board of review requested confirmation of the subject's assessment.

Conclusion of Law

The appellant contends in part 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 Board finds the only evidence of market value to be the comparable sales submitted by the appellant. The Board gave less weight to comparable sale #1 which sold in April 2015, a sale date less proximate in time to the January 1, 2017 assessment date than the other sales in the record. Less weight was also given to comparable sale #4 as it has basement finished area unlike the subject's unfinished basement. The Board finds the best evidence of market value to be comparables #2 and #3. These comparables sold in June 2016 and May 2017 for prices of \$490,000 and \$435,000 or for \$184.63 and \$169.33 per square foot of living area, including land, respectively. Most weight was given to comparable sale #2 which overall is most similar to the subject in lot size, age, dwelling size and features. The subject's assessment reflects a market value of \$470,290 or \$190.15 per square foot of living area, including land, which is bracketed by the two best comparables on an overall basis but falls slightly above the best comparable sale on a square foot basis. The slightly higher price per square foot is justified when considering economies of scale due to the subject's smaller dwelling size. After considering adjustments to the best comparables for differences when compared to the subject, the Board finds a reduction in the subject's assessment is not justified.

The appellant also argued assessment inequity as an alternative 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. The Board finds the appellant did not meet this burden of proof and a reduction in the subject's assessment is not warranted.

The record contains eight equity comparables for the Board's consideration. The Board gave less weight to appellant's comparables #3 and #4 along with board of review comparables #3 and #4 which have larger dwelling sizes when compared to the subject or have finished basement area in contrast to the subject's unfinished basement.

The Board finds the best evidence of assessment equity to be appellant's comparables #1 and #2 along with board of review comparables #1 and #2. These comparables are similar two-story homes identical to the subject in dwelling size and are relatively similar in age and most features. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$30,022 to \$39,435 or from \$12.14 to \$15.95 per square foot of living area. The subject has an improvement assessment of \$33,212 or \$13.43 per square foot of living area, which falls within the range established by the best comparables in this record. After considering adjustments to the comparables for differences when compared to the subject, the Board finds the subject's improvement assessment is supported and therefore, a reduction in the subject's assessment is not justified.

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

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