



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

APPELLANT: Louis Werner  
DOCKET NO.: 18-01725.001-R-1  
PARCEL NO.: 16-16-305-033

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Louis Werner, the appellant, by attorney Sreeram Natarajan, of Natarajan Worstell LLC in Chicago; and the Lake 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 **Lake** County Board of Review is warranted. The correct assessed valuation of the property is:

**LAND:** \$121,181  
**IMPR.:** \$210,745  
**TOTAL:** \$331,926

Subject only to the State multiplier as applicable.

**Statement of Jurisdiction**

The appellant timely filed the appeal from a decision of the Lake County Board of Review pursuant to section 16-160 of the Property Tax Code (35 ILCS 200/16-160) challenging the assessment for the 2018 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 wood siding exterior construction with 4,161 square feet of living area. The dwelling was constructed in 1996. Features of the home include an unfinished basement, central air conditioning, a fireplace and a 792 square foot garage. The property is located in Highland Park, West Deerfield Township, Lake County.

The appellant contends assessment inequity with respect to the improvement assessment as the basis of the appeal. In support of this argument the appellant submitted information on five equity comparables located in the same neighborhood code as the subject property. The comparables are improved with two-story dwellings of brick or wood siding exterior construction that range in size from 4,106 to 5,288 square feet of living area. The homes were built from 1990 to 1998. Each comparable has a basement, one with finished area, central air conditioning, one fireplace and a garage ranging in size from 522 to 950 square feet of building

area. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$142,133 to \$200,619 or from \$34.62 to \$39.49 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested the subject's improvement assessment be reduced to \$155,247 or \$37.31 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 \$331,926. The subject property has an improvement assessment of \$210,745 or \$50.65 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 in the same neighborhood code as the subject property. The comparables are improved with two-story dwellings of brick or wood siding exterior construction that range in size from 3,828 to 4,981 square feet of living area. The homes were built from 1993 to 1995. Each comparable has an unfinished basement, central air conditioning, one or two fireplaces and a garage ranging in size from 756 to 828 square feet of building area. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$205,493 to \$261,509 or from \$50.44 to \$53.68 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence, the board of review requested 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 nine comparables for the Board's consideration. The Board gave less weight to the appellant's comparables #3, #4 and #5 along with board of review comparable #2 which have significantly larger dwelling sizes when compared to the subject. Appellant comparable #4 also has a finished basement 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 and board of review comparables #1, #3 and #4 which are similar to the subject in location, age, design, dwelling size and features. These comparables had improvement assessments that ranged from \$142,133 to \$211,529 or from \$34.62 to \$53.68 per square foot of living area. The subject's improvement assessment of \$210,745 or \$50.65 per square foot of living area falls within the range established by the best comparables in this record. After considering adjustments to the comparables for differences with the subject, 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 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

AGENCY

State of Illinois  
Property Tax Appeal Board  
William G. Stratton Building, Room 402  
401 South Spring Street  
Springfield, IL 62706-4001

APPELLANT

Louis Werner, by attorney:  
Sreeram Natarajan  
Natarajan Worstell LLC  
33 North LaSalle Street  
Suite 1930  
Chicago, IL 60602

COUNTY

Lake County Board of Review  
Lake County Courthouse  
18 North County Street, 7th Floor  
Waukegan, IL 60085