



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

APPELLANT: Kurt Staelens  
DOCKET NO.: 18-20584.001-R-1  
PARCEL NO.: 05-17-118-016-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Kurt Staelens, the appellant, by attorney Ciarra Schmidt, of Schmidt Salzman & Moran, Ltd. 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:** \$27,300  
**IMPR.:** \$103,161  
**TOTAL:** \$130,461

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 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 masonry exterior construction with 4,589 square feet of living area. The dwelling is approximately 79 years old. Features of the home include a partial basement with a recreation room, central air conditioning, two fireplaces and a two-car garage. The property has a 14,000 square foot site and is located in Winnetka, New Trier Township, Cook County. The subject is classified as a class 2-06 property under the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance.

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 five equity comparables located within the same assessment neighborhood code as the subject. The comparables are improved with class 2-06 two-story dwellings of frame, stucco, or frame and masonry exterior construction that range in size from 4,227 to 4,658 square feet of living area

and range in age from 76 to 123 years old. The comparables have partial or full unfinished basements, four comparables have central air conditioning, each comparable has one or two fireplaces and four comparables each have a 2-car or a 2.5-car garage. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$70,240 to \$90,750 or from \$15.75 to \$19.48 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested a reduction in the subject's improvement assessment to \$84,162 or \$18.34 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 \$130,461. The subject has an improvement assessment of \$103,161 or \$22.48 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 assessment neighborhood code as the subject. The comparables are improved with class 2-06 two-story dwellings of frame or masonry exterior construction that range in size from 3,774 to 4,470 square feet of living area and range in age from 78 to 99 years old. Each comparable has a partial or a full basement with a recreation room, central air conditioning, two fireplaces and a 1-car, 2-car, or a 2.5-car garage. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$101,898 to \$118,944 or from \$25.81 to \$27.67 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 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 record contains nine equity comparables for the Board's consideration. The Board gave less weight to appellant's comparables which have unfinished basements, older ages, and/or lack garages when compared to the subject. The Board also gave less weight to board of review comparables #1 and #2 due to their smaller dwelling sizes when compared to the subject.

The Board finds the best evidence of assessment equity to be board of review comparables #3 and #4 which overall are most similar to the subject in location, age, dwelling size and features. These comparables have improvement assessments of \$105,382 and \$118,944 or \$25.81 and \$26.61 per square foot of living area, respectively. The subject has an improvement assessment of \$103,161 or \$22.48 per square foot of living area, which is below the two best comparables in this record. After considering adjustments to the comparables for differences when compared to the subject, the Board finds that the subject's improvement assessment appears to be equitably assessed and 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: October 19, 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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