



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

APPELLANT: William Benjamin
DOCKET NO.: 18-20852.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 05-34-221-002-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are William Benjamin, the appellant, by attorney Robert Rosenfeld, of Robert H. Rosenfeld and Associates, LLC 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 A Reduction 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: \$15,200
IMPR.: \$59,466
TOTAL: \$74,666

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 frame construction with 2,703 square feet of living area. The dwelling is approximately 100 years old. Features of the home include a full unfinished basement and one fireplace. The property has an 8,000 square foot site and is located in Wilmette, 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 three equity comparables that are located within the same neighborhood code as the subject. The comparables are improved with class 2-06 dwellings of frame exterior construction ranging in size from 2,645 to 3,251 square feet of living area. The dwellings range in age from 111 to 158 years old. The comparables have full basements, one of which has finished area. Two

comparables have central air conditioning. Each comparable has one or two fireplaces and a two-car to a three-car garage. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$51,930 to \$62,500 or from \$17.94 to \$19.90 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested that the subject's improvement assessment be reduced to \$51,411 or \$19.02 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 \$80,072. The subject property has an improvement assessment of \$64,872 or \$24.00 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 are located within the same neighborhood code as the subject. The comparables are improved with two-story dwellings of frame exterior construction ranging in size from 2,318 to 2,539 square feet of living area. The dwellings range in age from 97 to 104 years old. Three comparables have partial or full basements, two of which have finished area, and one comparable has a concrete slab foundation. Three comparables each have central air conditioning and one fireplace. Each comparable has a two-car garage. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$60,126 to \$63,977 or from \$24.71 to \$27.60 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence, the board of review requested that 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 met this burden of proof and a reduction in the subject's assessment is warranted.

The parties submitted seven suggested comparables for the Board's consideration. The Board gives less weight to the appellant's comparables and the board of review's comparable #2 due to their significantly older ages, larger dwelling size or lack of a basement when compared to the subject.

The Board finds the best evidence of assessment equity based on age and dwelling size to be the board of review's comparables #1, #2 and #4. These comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$24.71 to \$27.60 per square foot of living area. The subject's improvement assessment of \$24.00 per square foot of living area falls below the range established by the best comparables based on age and dwelling size in this record which is justified given the subject's unfinished basement and its lack of central air conditioning and a garage. After considering adjustments to the comparables for differences to the subject, the Board finds the appellant demonstrated with clear and convincing evidence that the subject's improvement was inequitably assessed and a reduction in the subject's improvement assessment based on inequity 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: March 16, 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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