



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

APPELLANT: Sean Farley  
DOCKET NO.: 18-32539.001-R-1  
PARCEL NO.: 09-25-413-047-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Sean Farley, the appellant(s), by attorney Spiro Zarkos, of Verros Berkshire, PC 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:** \$ 6,918  
**IMPR.:** \$ 24,084  
**TOTAL:** \$ 31,002

Subject only to the State multiplier as applicable.

**Statement of Jurisdiction**

The appellant timely filed the appeal pursuant to section 16-160 of the Property Tax Code (35 ILCS 200/16-160) after receiving a decision from the Cook County Board of Review. The instant appeal challenges the assessment for tax year 2018. The Property Tax Appeal Board (the "Board") finds that it has jurisdiction over the parties and the subject matter of this appeal.

**Findings of Fact**

The subject consists of a two-story dwelling of masonry construction with 1,080 square feet of living area. The dwelling is 73 years old. Features of the home include a full unfinished basement and a two-car garage. The property's site is 5,125 square feet, and it is located in Jefferson Township, Cook County. The subject is classified as a class 2-05 property under the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance. No evidence was submitted as to whether the subject is owner-occupied.

The appellant contends assessment inequity as the basis of the appeal. In support of this argument, the appellant submitted information on four equity comparables.

The appellant also contends overvaluation as the basis of the appeal. In support of this argument, the appellant submitted evidence disclosing the subject property was purchased on March 12,

2018 for a price of \$232,000. In Section IV – Recent Sale Data of the appeal form, the appellant stated that the subject was advertised for sale on the open market; however, no further information regarding the advertisement of the subject was disclosed. The settlement statement submitted by the appellant shows that the appellant/purchaser lives on the same block as the seller, and the sale contract submitted by the appellant shows that the appellant/purchaser is a licensed real estate broker, while the seller was not represented by a real estate broker. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested a reduction in the subject’s assessment to \$23,200.

The board of review submitted its “Board of Review Notes on Appeal” disclosing that the total assessment for the subject is \$31,002. The subject property has an improvement assessment of \$24,084, or \$22.30 per square foot of living area. The subject’s assessment reflects a market value of \$310,020, or \$287.06 per square foot of living area, including land, when applying the 2018 statutory level of assessment for class 2 property of 10.00% under the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance.

In support of its contention of the correct assessment, the board of review submitted information on eight equity comparables, and four sale comparables. These sale comparables sold from March 2016 to December 2016 for \$530,000 to \$775,000, or \$288.14 to \$384.81 per square foot of living area, including land. The board of review’s evidence also states that the subject was purchased in March 2018 for \$232,000.

### **Conclusion of Law**

The appellant contends 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 proven 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 that the sale of the subject in March 2018 was not an arm’s-length transaction, as the appellant/purchaser and the seller lived on the same block prior to the transaction, the appellant/purchaser acted as the buyer’s real estate broker while the seller was not represented by a real estate broker, and there was no evidence submitted to support the appellant/purchaser’s claim that the subject was advertised for sale on the open market. As such, the Board finds that the sale price of \$232,000 does not represent the subject’s fair cash value. The appellant did not submit any further evidence as to the subject’s market value. Therefore, the Board finds that the appellant has not proven, by a preponderance of the evidence, that the subject is overvalued, and that a reduction in the subject’s assessment is not warranted.

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 proven 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 that a reduction in the subject's assessment is not warranted.

The Board finds the best evidence of assessment equity to be board of review equity comparables #1, #2, #3, and #4. These equity comparables had improvement assessments ranging from \$22.34 to \$25.68 per square foot of living area. The subject's improvement assessment of \$22.30 per square foot of living area falls below the range established by the best comparables in this record. Based on this record, the Board finds the appellant has not proven, with clear and convincing evidence, that the subject is inequitably assessed, and that a reduction in the subject's assessment is not 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:

April 19, 2022



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

Sean Farley, by attorney:  
Spiro Zarkos  
Verros Berkshire, PC  
225 West Randolph  
Suite 2950  
Chicago, IL 60606

COUNTY

Cook County Board of Review  
County Building, Room 601  
118 North Clark Street  
Chicago, IL 60602