



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

APPELLANT: Bryan Merrill  
DOCKET NO.: 18-35083.001-R-1  
PARCEL NO.: 13-13-202-023-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Bryan Merrill, 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 **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:** \$9,000  
**IMPR.:** \$63,378  
**TOTAL:** \$72,378

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 three-story multi-family building of masonry exterior construction with 4,616 square feet of building area. The building is approximately 105 years old. Features of the building include a full unfinished basement. The property has a 3,750 square foot site located in Chicago, Jefferson Township, Cook County. The subject is classified as a class 2-11 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 four equity comparables that are located within the same neighborhood code as the subject property. The comparables are each improved with class 2-11 multi-family buildings of masonry exterior construction ranging in size from 4,242 to 5,172 square feet of building area. The buildings

range in age from 95 to 102 years old. Each comparable has full unfinished basement and a two-car to a three-car garage. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$48,280 to \$59,784 or from \$11.38 to \$11.68 per square foot of building area. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested that the subject's improvement assessment be reduced to \$53,407 or \$11.57 per square foot of building area.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" disclosing the total assessment for the subject of \$72,378. The subject property has an improvement assessment of \$63,378 or \$13.73 per square foot of building area. In support of its contention of the correct assessment, the board of review submitted information on four equity comparables which are located within the same neighborhood code as the subject property. The comparables are improved with three-story class 2-11 multi-family buildings of masonry exterior construction ranging in size from 4,458 to 4,986 square feet of building area. The buildings range in age from 93 to 105 years old. Each comparable has a full unfinished basement. One comparable has a two-car garage. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$63,393 to \$80,251 or from \$14.22 to \$16.16 per square foot of building 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 eight suggested comparables for the Board's consideration. The Board gives less weight to the appellant comparables and the board of review comparable #3 due to their garages and/or larger building size when compared to the subject.

The Board finds the best evidence of assessment equity to be board of review comparables #1, #2 and #4 as they have varying degrees of similarity to the subject in location, design, exterior construction, age, building size, basement and other features. These comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$71,150 to \$80,251 or from \$14.27 to \$16.16 per square foot of building area. The subject property's improvement assessment of \$63,378 or \$13.73 per square foot of building area falls below the range established by the best comparables in this record. Based on this record and after considering adjustments to the best comparables for differences when compared to 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.

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: September 21, 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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