



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

APPELLANT: Lee Bolnick
DOCKET NO.: 18-42836.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 17-06-434-016-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Lee Bolnick, 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: \$11,685
IMPR.: \$95,211
TOTAL: \$106,896

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 3,473 square foot parcel of land improved with two improvements. Improvement #1 is a 126 year old, three-story, multi-family dwelling of masonry construction with 4,329 square feet of living area. Improvement #2 is a coach house with 910 square feet of living area. The property is located in Chicago, West Chicago Township, Cook County. The subject is classified as a class 2 property under the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance.

The appellant contends assessment inequity as the basis of the appeal. In support of this argument the appellant submitted information on five equity comparables for improvement #1. All were improved with a three-story, multi-family dwelling of frame construction, masonry construction, or frame and masonry construction. The improvements ranged in age from 114 to 140 years; in size from 4,089 to 4,469 square feet of living area; and in improvement assessment

from \$14.75 to \$15.77 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence the appellant is requesting an assessment for the subject of \$66,190.

Additionally, the appellant submitted information on five equity comparables for improvement #2. Two were improved with a three-story, multi-family dwelling of frame construction; two were improved with a three-story, multi-family dwelling of masonry construction; one was improved with a two-story, single family dwelling of frame construction. Appellant inconsistently labelled comparables #1 through #4 as class 2-11 on the grid and later as class 2-05 in their brief. Regardless, the improvements ranged in age from 110 to 130 years; in size from 800 to 1,120 square feet of living area; and in improvement assessment from \$6.00 to \$6.90 per square foot of living area. All of the these comparables were outside of the neighborhood code, subarea or block of the subject property. Based on this evidence the appellant is requesting an assessment for the subject of \$6,124; for a total assessed value for the subject of \$93,999.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" disclosing the total assessment for the subject of \$106,896. The subject property has an improvement assessment of \$95,211 or \$21.99 per square foot of living area. In support of its contention of the correct assessment the board of review submitted information on three equity comparables for improvement #1; two of which contained sales data. One was improved with a three-story, multi-family dwelling of masonry construction; two were improved with a two-story, multi-family dwelling of masonry construction. The improvements ranged in age from 118 to 132 years; in size between 2,550 and 2,784 square feet of living area; and in improvement assessment from \$24.46 to \$32.17 per square foot of living area. All of the comparables were within one mile of the subject property.

While the board of review did not submit separate comparables for improvement #2, they did submit in its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" information that the combined building square footage for both improvements is 5,239 square feet.

Conclusion of Law

The taxpayer asserts assessment inequity as the basis of the appeal. The Illinois Constitution requires that real estate taxes, "be levied uniformly by valuation ascertained as the General Assembly shall provide by law." Ill. Const. art. IX, §4 (1970); *Walsh v. Property Tax Appeal Board*, 181 Ill. 2d 228, 234 (1998). This uniformity provision of the Illinois Constitution does not require absolute equality in taxation, however, and it is sufficient if the taxing authority achieves a reasonable degree of uniformity. *Peacock v. Property Tax Appeal Board*, 339 Ill. App. 3d 1060, 1070 (4th Dist. 2003).

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); *Walsh*, 181 Ill. 2d at 234 (1998). Clear and convincing evidence means more than a preponderance of the evidence, but it does not need to approach the degree of proof needed for a conviction of a crime. *Bazyldo v. Volant*, 164 Ill. 2d 207, 213 (1995). 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.

With regard to improvement #1 the Board finds the best evidence of assessment equity to be the appellant's comparable #3 and the board of review comparable #1. These comparables had improvement assessments that ranged from \$15.29 to \$26.39 per square foot of living area. The subject's improvement assessment of \$21.99 per square foot of living area falls within the range established by the best comparables in this record. Based on this record 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.

With regard to improvement #2 the board of review failed to submit any comparables. The appellant's comparables were too dissimilar in construction, class and proximity to the subject property to be given much weight. As such, the Board finds that the appellant did not meet the burden of clear and convincing evidence, as there is no range of comparables with which to compare the subject. Therefore, the Board finds the subject's improvement assessment for both improvement #1 and improvement #2 is equitable and 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

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: February 21, 2023



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

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