



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

APPELLANT: John Stopka  
DOCKET NO.: 18-49811.001-R-1  
PARCEL NO.: 18-02-311-080-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are John Stopka, the appellant(s), by attorney Noah J. 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 **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:** \$2,558  
**IMPR.:** \$32,280  
**TOTAL:** \$34,838

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 5,685 square foot parcel of land improved with a 55-year-old, two-story, masonry, multiple-family dwelling containing 5,407 square feet of living area. The property is located in Lyons, Lyons Township, Cook County and is a class 2-11 property under the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance.

The appellant contends inequity as the basis of the appeal. The subject property was the subject matter of an appeal before the Property Tax Appeal Board under Docket Number 17-26690.001-R-1. In that appeal the Property Tax Appeal Board issued a decision lowering the total assessment of the subject property to \$34,838 based on equity.

In support of the equity argument, the appellant submitted five comparables. The comparable properties are described as either two-story or three-story, multiple-family dwellings, of masonry

construction. They range in age from 47 to 91 years old; in size from 5,046 to 5,900 square feet of living area; and in improvement assessment from \$5.20 to \$5.97 per square foot of living area.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" disclosing the subject's total assessment of \$41,975 with an improvement assessment of \$39,417 or \$7.29 per square foot of living area. The board of review's evidence acknowledges the subject's previous decision's reduction and agrees to the "rollover" of this assessment.

### **Conclusion of Law**

The appellant raised a contention of law asserting that the assessment of the subject property as established by the Property Tax Appeal Board for the 2017 tax year should be carried forward to the 2018 tax year pursuant to section 16-185 of the Property Tax Code. (35 ILCS 200/16-185). When a contention of law is raised the burden of proof is a preponderance of the evidence. (See 5 ILCS 100/10-15). The Board finds the appellant met this burden of proof and a reduction in the subject's assessment is warranted.

The Property Tax Appeal Board finds that the assessment as established by the Board for the 2017 tax year should be carried forward to the tax year at issue subject only to equalization as provided by section 16-185 of the Property Tax Code.

Section 16-185 of the Property Tax Code (35 ILCS 200/16-185) states in part:

If the Property Tax Appeal Board renders a decision lowering the assessment of a particular parcel on which a residence occupied by the owner is situated, such reduced assessment, subject to equalization, shall remain in effect for the remainder of the general assessment period as provided in Sections 9-215 through 9-225, unless that parcel is subsequently sold in an arm's length transaction establishing a fair cash value for the parcel that is different from the fair cash value on which the Board's assessment is based, or unless the decision of the Property Tax Appeal Board is reversed or modified upon review.

The record disclosed the Property Tax Appeal Board issued a decision reducing the subject's assessment for the 2017 tax year. The record further indicates that 2017 and 2018 are within the same general assessment period. The record contains no evidence indicating the subject property sold in an arm's length transaction after the Board's decision or that the decision of the Property Tax Appeal Board has been reversed or modified upon review. The board of review did not object to the subject's occupancy. For these reasons the Property Tax Appeal Board finds that a reduction in the subject's assessment is warranted to reflect the assessment as established in the Board's prior year's decision plus the application of an equalization factor, if any.

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: 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

AGENCY

State of Illinois  
Property Tax Appeal Board  
William G. Stratton Building, Room 402  
401 South Spring Street  
Springfield, IL 62706-4001

APPELLANT

John Stopka, by attorney:  
Noah J. Schmidt  
Schmidt Salzman & Moran, Ltd.  
111 West Washington Street  
Suite 1300  
Chicago, IL 60602

COUNTY

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