



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

APPELLANT: Brian Johnson  
DOCKET NO.: 19-22255.001-R-1 through 19-22255.002-R-1  
PARCEL NO.: See Below

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Brian Johnson, 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:

DOCKET NO	PARCEL NUMBER	LAND	IMPRVMT	TOTAL
19-22255.001-R-1	05-17-402-004-0000	9,956	375	\$10,331
19-22255.002-R-1	05-17-402-024-0000	41,850	168,690	\$210,540

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 2019 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 two parcels. Parcel #2, identified as PIN 05-17-402-024-0000, has a two-story dwelling of frame and masonry exterior construction. The dwelling is approximately 105 years old with 6,212 square feet of living area. Features of the home include a full finished basement, central air conditioning, and two fireplaces. Neither party provided a detailed description for Parcel #1, identified as PIN 05-17-402-004-0000, although the Board takes judicial notice that in Docket No. 17-22954.001-R-1 through 17-22954.002-R-1 Parcel #1 was described as having a residential garage. The subject's two parcels are located in Winnetka, New Trier Township, Cook County. Parcel #2 is classified as a Class 2-09 property under the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance.

For this 2019 appeal, the appellant's attorney submitted a "Residential Appeal" with a "Comparable Sales/Assessment Grid Analysis", "Addendum to Petition" showing a separate

listing of each individual parcel's land and improvement assessments, a copy of the final decision of the board of review for the 2019 tax year, and a supplemental brief.

The appellant's attorney disclosed within the "Addendum to Petition" the individual assessments of \$9,956 (land) and \$375 (improvement) totaling \$10,331 for Parcel #1 and \$41,850 (land) and \$168,690 (improvement) totaling \$210,540 for Parcel #2.

The appellant contends assessment inequity with respect to the improvement assessment as the basis of the appeal only for Parcel #2, and thus falsely treating the subject as a property without a garage for purposes of this analysis. The appellant did not contest the improvement assessment for Parcel #1 or the land assessments for either of the subject's two parcels. In support of this argument for Parcel #2, 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 2-09 dwellings of frame or frame and masonry exterior construction ranging in size from 6,012 to 6,651 square feet of living area. The dwellings range in age from 96 to 128 years old. Each comparable has a full unfinished basement, two to seven fireplaces, and either a 2-car, a 2.5-car or a 3-car garage. One comparable has central air conditioning. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$142,866 to \$152,229 or from \$22.22 to \$23.76 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested in the "Addendum to Petition" that the subject's improvement assessment for Parcel #2 be reduced to \$143,184 or \$23.05 per square foot of living area.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" for Parcel #2 disclosing the parcel's total assessment of \$210,540 with an improvement assessment of \$168,690 or \$27.16 per square foot of living area. In support of its contention of the correct assessment for Parcel #2, 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 Class 2-09 dwellings of masonry or stucco exterior construction ranging in size from 5,440 to 5,814 square feet of living area. The dwellings range in age from 90 to 109 years old. Each comparable has a partial or full basement with three having finished area, two or three fireplaces, and either a 1-car, a 2-car or a 2.5-car garage. Two comparables each have central air conditioning. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$160,288 to \$163,340 or from \$28.09 to \$29.46 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence, the board of review requested that the subject's assessment for Parcel #2 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 Board recognizes the subject property consists of two parcels, and the appellant's "Addendum to Petition" provides the improvement assessments attributable to each of the parcels. However, the Board finds neither property provided an adequate description of the entire subject property of each parcel to determine what is assessable to Parcel #1. Since the appellant is only requesting a reduction in the improvement assessment for Parcel #2 and the property descriptions for Parcel #2 is the same in both parties' grid analyses, the Board will analyze only Parcel #2 for equity.

The parties submitted seven suggested comparables for the Board's consideration. The Board finds none of the comparables are truly similar to the subject property with varying dissimilarities in age, dwelling size, unfinished basement, and/or other features. Both parties' comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$22.22 to \$29.46 per square foot of living area. The subject's improvement assessment for Parcel #2 of \$27.16 per square foot of living area falls within the range established by both parties' comparables on a per-square-foot basis. Based on the evidence in 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.

The constitutional provision for uniformity of taxation and valuation does not require mathematical equality. A practical uniformity, rather than an absolute one, is the test. Apex Motor Fuel Co. v. Barrett, 20 Ill.2d 395 (1960). Although the comparables presented by the parties disclosed that the properties located in the same area are not assessed at identical levels, all that the constitution requires is a practical uniformity, which appears to exist on the basis of the evidence.

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 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

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

APPELLANT

Brian Johnson, by attorney:  
Robert Rosenfeld  
Robert H. Rosenfeld and Associates, LLC  
33 North Dearborn Street  
Suite 1850  
Chicago, IL 60602

COUNTY

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