



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

APPELLANT: Matthew Seifert  
DOCKET NO.: 19-44894.001-R-1  
PARCEL NO.: 13-35-232-015-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Matthew Seifert, the appellant, by attorney Ellen G. Berkshire, of Verros Berkshire in Oakbrook Terrace; 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:** \$4,350  
**IMPR.:** \$30,970  
**TOTAL:** \$35,320

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 a two-story, multi-family building of frame exterior construction with 2,764 square feet of building area. The building is approximately 140 years old. Features include a basement with an apartment and a fireplace. The property has a 3,000 square foot site and is 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 subject's improvement as the basis of the appeal. In support of this argument, the appellant submitted information on four comparables located within the same neighborhood code as the subject and from .3 to 1.7 miles from the subject. The comparables are improved with class 2-11 buildings with frame exterior construction ranging in size from 2,444 to 2,795 square feet of building area. The buildings range in age from 4 to 120 years old. Three comparables have concrete slab foundations, and

one comparable has an unfinished basement. Two comparables have either a 1-car or a 2.5-car garage. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$14,519 to \$21,009 or from \$5.73 to \$7.52 per square foot of building area. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested that the subject's improvement assessment be reduced to \$18,850 or \$6.82 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 \$35,320. The subject property has an improvement assessment of \$30,970 or \$11.20 per square foot of building area. In support of its contention of the correct assessment, the board of review submitted information on four comparables located within the same neighborhood code as the subject and within the same "subarea" or a .25 of a mile of the subject. The comparables are improved with class 2-11, two-story buildings of frame exterior construction ranging in size from 2,232 to 2,604 square feet of building area. The buildings range in age from 115 to 125 years old. Each comparable has a basement, two of which have a recreation room or an apartment, and either a 1.5-car or a 2-car garage. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$26,049 to \$36,899 or from \$11.59 to \$14.17 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 equity comparables for the Board's consideration. The Board gives less weight to the appellant's comparables due to differences from the subject in location, age, and/or foundation type. The Board also gives less weight to the board of review comparables #2 and #4 which are less similar in dwelling size to the subject than the other comparables in the record.

The Board finds the best evidence of assessment equity in the record to be the board of review comparables #1 and #3. These comparables are similar to the subject in location, age, and foundation type, but have smaller dwelling sizes and a garage, which the subject lacks. These two comparables have improvement assessments of \$36,899 and \$33,504 or \$14.17 and \$14.11 per square foot of building area, respectively. The subject's improvement assessment of \$30,970 or \$11.20 per square foot of building area falls below the two best comparables in this record which is logical considering the subject lacks a garage. After considering adjustments to the 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: October 17, 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

Matthew Seifert, by attorney:  
Ellen G. Berkshire  
Verros Berkshire, PC  
1S660 Midwest Road  
Suite 300  
Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181

COUNTY

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