



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

APPELLANT: Maria Kowalczyk  
DOCKET NO.: 20-24094.001-R-1  
PARCEL NO.: 22-28-207-005-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Maria Kowalczyk, the appellant, by attorney John W. Zapala, of the Law Offices of John Zapala, P.C. 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:** \$5,082  
**IMPR.:** \$25,679  
**TOTAL:** \$30,761

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 2020 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 multi-level dwelling of frame and masonry exterior construction with 2,065 square feet of living area. The dwelling is approximately 31 years old. Features of the home include a basement with finished area, one fireplace and a 2-car garage. The property has a 9,240 square foot site and is located in Lemont, Lemont Township, Cook County. The subject is classified as a class 2-34 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 three equity comparables that are located in the same assessment neighborhood code as the subject property. The comparables are improved with class 2-34 dwellings of frame and masonry exterior construction ranging in size from 1,376 to 1,902 square feet of living area. The dwellings are 26 or 28 years old. Each comparable has a basement with finished area and either a 1.5-car or a 2-car garage. One comparable has central air conditioning and one fireplace. The comparables have improvement

assessments that range from \$12,354 to \$20,982 or from \$8.98 to \$12.13 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested the subject's improvement assessment be reduced to \$18,540 or \$8.98 per square foot of living area.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" disclosing the total assessment for the subject of \$30,761. The subject property has an improvement assessment of \$25,679 or \$12.44 per square foot of living area.

In support of its contention of the correct assessment, the board of review submitted information on four equity comparables located within the same assessment neighborhood code as the subject property. The comparables are improved with class 2-34, multi-level dwellings of frame and masonry exterior construction ranging in size from 1,882 to 2,140 square feet of living area. The dwellings range in age from 28 to 31 years old. Each comparable has a basement with finished area, central air conditioning, one fireplace and either a 2-car or a 3-car garage. The comparables have improvement assessments that range from \$24,543 to \$27,517 or from \$12.59 to \$14.38 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence, the board of review requested confirmation of the subject's assessment.

### **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 record contains seven suggested equity comparables for the Board's consideration. The Board has given less weight to the appellant's comparables #1 and #3 due to their smaller dwelling sizes when compared to the subject.

The Board finds the best evidence of assessment equity to be appellant's comparable #2 along with the board of review comparables. The Board finds that these comparables are most similar to the subject in location, design, dwelling size, age and some features. However, each of the comparables have central air conditioning, a feature the subject lacks, suggesting downward adjustments would be needed to make the comparables more equivalent to the subject. Nevertheless, these most similar comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$20,982 to \$27,517 or from \$11.03 to \$14.38 per square foot of living area. The subject's improvement assessment of \$25,679 or \$12.44 per square foot of living area, falls within the range of the best comparables in this record. Based on this record and after considering adjustments to the comparables for differences from 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 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:

May 21, 2024



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

Maria Kowalczyk, by attorney:  
John W. Zapala  
Law Offices of John Zapala, P.C.  
111 W Jackson Blvd.  
Suite 1700  
Chicago, IL 60604

COUNTY

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