



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

APPELLANT: Sarah Olson  
DOCKET NO.: 20-25191.001-R-1  
PARCEL NO.: 16-08-311-003-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Sarah Olson, the appellant, by attorney Christopher G. Walsh, Jr., of Walsh Law, 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:

**LAND:** \$8,170  
**IMPR.:** \$48,034  
**TOTAL:** \$56,204

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 2-story dwelling of frame exterior construction with 2,737 square feet of living area. The dwelling is approximately 117 years old. Features of the home include an unfinished basement and a 2-car garage. The property has an 8,600 square foot site and is located in Oak Park, Oak Park Township, Cook County. The subject is classified as a class 2-06 property under the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance.

The appellant contends assessment inequity regarding the improvement assessment as the basis of the appeal. In support of this argument the appellant submitted information on four equity comparables located within eleven blocks from the subject property and within the same assessment neighborhood code as the subject. The comparables are improved with class 2-06, 2-story dwellings of frame exterior construction ranging in size from 2,558 to 3,036 square feet of living area. The comparables are 102 to 122 years old, three of which have unfinished

basements. Two comparables have central air conditioning. One comparable has a fireplace. Each comparable has 1 to 3.5 baths and three comparables each have a 2-car garage. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$32,690 to \$47,462 or from \$11.30 to \$17.51 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested a reduction in the subject's improvement assessment.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" disclosing the total assessment for the subject of \$56,204. The subject property has an improvement assessment of \$48,034 or \$17.55 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 ¼ of a mile from the subject and within the same assessment neighborhood code as the subject. The comparables are improved with class 2-06, 2-story dwellings of frame exterior construction ranging in size from 2,467 to 2,715 square feet of living area. The comparables are 109 to 122 years old and have unfinished basements. Two comparables have central air conditioning. Two comparables each have a fireplace. Each comparable has from 1.5 to 2.5 baths and a 2-car or a 2.5-car garage. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$45,824 to \$49,508 or from \$17.65 to \$19.36 per square foot of living area.

### **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 eight equity comparables for the Board's consideration. The Board gives less weight to the appellant's comparable #1 which is an outlier due to its lower improvement assessment when compared to the other comparables submitted by the appellant. The Board gives less weight to appellant's comparable #2 which lacks a basement and a garage, features of the subject. The Board also gives less weight to appellant's comparables #2 and #4 as well as board of review comparables #2 and #3 which have central air conditioning, a feature the subject lacks.

The Board finds the best evidence of assessment equity to be appellant's comparable #3 and board of review comparables #1 and #4 which are most similar to the subject in location, design, age, dwelling size and features. These comparables have improvement assessments that range from \$45,824 to \$47,655 or from \$16.50 to \$17.90 per square foot of living area. The subject's improvement assessment of \$48,034 or \$17.55 per square foot of living area falls within range established by the best comparables in this record on a square foot basis and slightly higher on an overall basis is logical when considering the subject has more baths. Based on this record and after considering adjustments to the best 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:

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

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