



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

APPELLANT: Cheryl Benson
DOCKET NO.: 20-25268.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 16-05-301-021-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Cheryl Benson, 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: \$5,315
IMPR.: \$29,558
TOTAL: \$34,873

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 1.5-story dwelling of frame exterior construction with 1,689 square feet of living area. The dwelling is approximately 99 years old. Features of the home include a basement with finished area, 1-bathroom, central air conditioning and a 1.5-car garage. The property has an approximately 4,725 square foot site and is located in Oak Park, Oak Park Township, Cook County. The subject is classified as a class 2-03 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 information on four equity comparables located in the same assessment neighborhood code as the subject property. The comparables are improved with class 2-03 dwellings of frame exterior construction ranging in size from 1,549 to 1,791 square feet of living area. The homes range in age from 100 to 108

years old. Each comparable has an unfinished basement, 1.5-bathrooms and a 1.5-car or a 2-car garage. Comparable #2 is reported to have a finished attic and central air conditioning. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$22,250 to \$27,692 or from \$12.42 to \$16.14 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested the subject's improvement assessment be reduced to \$25,504 or \$15.10 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 \$34,873. The subject property has an improvement assessment of \$29,558 or \$17.50 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 in the same assessment neighborhood code as the subject property. The comparables are improved with 1.5-story class 2-03 dwellings of frame exterior construction ranging in size from 1,567 to 1,649 square feet of living area. The homes range in age from 91 to 112 years old. Each comparable has 1 or 1.5-bathrooms and a basement, with two having finished area. Two dwellings have central air conditioning, two homes each have one fireplace and three properties have either a 2-car or a 2.5-car garage. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$28,969 to \$37,547 or from \$17.96 to \$23.61 per square foot of living 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 appellant comparable #1 which appears to be an outlier based on its per square foot improvement assessment relative to other properties in the record. The Board gives less weight to appellant comparable #2 which has a finished attic unlike the subject property. The Board also gives less weight to board of review comparable #1 which lacks a garage amenity, a feature of the subject property.

The Board finds the best evidence of assessment equity to be appellant comparables #3 and #4 along with board of review comparables #2, #3 and #4 which are similar to the subject in location, age, design and dwelling size but have varying degrees of similarity to the subject in bathroom count, basement finished area, presence of central air conditioning and garage capacity, suggesting adjustment are needed to make these properties more equivalent to the subject. These best comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$24,998 to \$32,827 or from \$15.97 to \$19.91 per square foot of living area. The subject's improvement assessment of \$29,558 or \$17.50 per square foot of living area falls within the range established by the best comparables in this record. After considering appropriate 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 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: June 18, 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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