



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

APPELLANT: Tom Fitzgerald  
DOCKET NO.: 20-27743.001-R-1  
PARCEL NO.: 18-19-204-017-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Tom Fitzgerald, the appellant, by attorney Robert Rosenfeld, of Robert H. Rosenfeld & Associates, LLC in Northbrook; 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:** \$13,527  
**IMPR.:** \$62,439  
**TOTAL:** \$75,966

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 one-story dwelling of frame and masonry exterior construction with 4,422 square feet of living area. The dwelling is approximately 67 years old. Features of the home include an unfinished partial basement, central air conditioning and a 4-car garage. The property has an approximately 20,040 square foot site and is located in Indian Head Park, Lyons Township, Cook County. The subject is classified as a class 2-04 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 2-04 dwellings of frame, masonry or frame and masonry exterior construction ranging in size from 1,888 to 2,512 square feet of living area. The homes

range in age from 62 to 71 years old. Each comparable has an unfinished partial basement, central air conditioning, one or two fireplaces and a 2-car or a 3-car garage. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$23,548 to \$33,147 or from \$12.31 to \$13.20 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested the subject's improvement assessment be reduced to \$56,159 or \$12.70 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 \$75,966. The subject property has an improvement assessment of \$62,439 or \$14.12 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 and where two comparables are also located on the same block as the subject. The comparables are improved with either a one-story or a multi-level class 2-04 or 2-34 dwelling of masonry, frame or frame and masonry exterior construction ranging in size from 1,744 to 2,138 square feet of living area. The homes range in age from 61 to 67 years old. Each comparable has either a full or partial basement with finished area, central air conditioning, one or two fireplaces and from a 1.5-car to a 2.5-car garage. The comparables have improvement assessments that range from \$26,297 to \$31,548 or from \$14.13 to \$17.24 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 finds both parties submitted comparable properties which are similar to the subject in location and age but are substantially different from the subject in dwelling size. The Board gives less weight to the board of review's comparables, which, in addition to being substantially smaller in dwelling size when compared to the subject also have finished basement area in contrast to the subject's unfinished basement. Additionally, board of review comparable #4 is a multi-level dwelling when compared to the subject's one-story design.

The Board finds the best evidence of assessment equity to be the appellant's comparables which are similar to the subject in location, age, and design but are from 42% to 57% smaller in dwelling size and have smaller garage capacity relative to the subject, suggesting upward adjustments are needed to make these best comparables more equivalent to the subject. These comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$23,548 to \$33,147 or from \$12.31 to \$13.20 per square foot of living area. The subject's improvement assessment of \$62,439 or \$14.12 per square foot of living area falls above the range established by the best comparables in this record, which, given the subject's substantially larger dwelling size and larger garage

amenity relative to the best comparables appears to be logical. 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 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

AGENCY

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