



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

APPELLANT: Sterling & Emily Bruen  
DOCKET NO.: 21-07311.001-R-1  
PARCEL NO.: 06-07-406-007

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Sterling & Emily Bruen, the appellants, by Jessica Hill-Magiera, Attorney at Law in Lake Zurich; and the DuPage County Board of Review.<sup>1</sup>

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 **DuPage** County Board of Review is warranted. The correct assessed valuation of the property is:

**LAND:** \$22,980  
**IMPR.:** \$120,450  
**TOTAL:** \$143,430

Subject only to the State multiplier as applicable.

**Statement of Jurisdiction**

The appellants timely filed the appeal from a decision of the DuPage County Board of Review pursuant to section 16-160 of the Property Tax Code (35 ILCS 200/16-160) challenging the assessment for the 2021 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 1,989 square feet of living area. The dwelling was constructed in 1928. Features of the home include a basement with finished area, central air conditioning and a 572 square foot 2-car garage. The property has a 11,235 square foot site and is located in Lombard, York Township, DuPage County.

The appellants contend assessment inequity with respect to the improvement assessment as the basis of the appeal. In support of this argument, the appellants submitted information on five equity comparables located in the same assessment neighborhood code as the subject and within

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<sup>1</sup> The parties agreed to waive the scheduled hearing on this case and have the Board issue a decision based on the evidence in the record.

.95 of a mile from the subject property. The comparables are improved with 2-story dwellings of stucco or Dryvit, frame, or frame and masonry exterior construction that range in size from 1,805 to 2,048 square feet of living area. The homes were built from 1908 to 1944. Each comparable is reported to have a basement with finished area, central air conditioning, and a 1-car or 2-car garage. Four comparables each have one or two fireplaces. The comparables have improvement assessments that range from \$94,820 to \$115,210 or from \$52.51 to \$56.25 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence, the appellants 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 \$143,430. The subject has an improvement assessment of \$120,450 or \$60.56 per square foot of living area.

In response to the appellants' evidence, the board of review through the township assessor submitted information on the appellants' comparables disclosing garage sizes from 220 to 766 square feet.

In support of its contention of the correct assessment, the board of review submitted information prepared by the township assessor on six equity comparables with the same assessment neighborhood code as the subject. The comparables are improved with 2-story dwellings of frame or frame and masonry exterior construction ranging in size from 1,866 to 2,101 square feet of living area. The homes were built from 1904 to 1995. The comparables have basements, with one having finished area. Each comparable has central air conditioning and a 1-car or 2-car garage ranging in size from 240 to 828 square feet of building area. Four comparables each have a fireplace. The comparables have improvement assessments that range from \$114,580 to \$131,670 or from \$59.23 to \$63.76 per square foot of living area. The assessor also provided a map of both parties' comparable sales in relation to the subject along with property record cards and exterior photographs of both parties' comparable sales. Based on this evidence, the board of review requested the subject's assessment be confirmed.

In rebuttal, the appellants' counsel argued the board of review comparables are not comparable to the subject. Comparables #1 through #6 lack finished basement area and comparable #7 is a newer dwelling located over 1 mile from subject.

### **Conclusion of Law**

The appellants contend 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 appellants did not meet this burden of proof and a reduction in the subject's assessment is not warranted.

The parties submitted 11 equity comparables for the Board's consideration. The Board gives less weight to appellants' comparables #2, #3 and #5 as well as board of review comparables #5 and #6 due to differences from the subject in age.

The Board finds the best evidence of assessment equity to be appellant's comparables #1 and #4 as well as board of review comparables #1 through #4 which are similar to the subject in location, style, age, dwelling size and some features. These comparables have improvement assessments that range from \$99,460 to \$124,440 or from \$52.51 to \$61.46 per square foot of living area. The subject's improvement assessment of \$120,450 or \$60.56 per square foot of living area falls within the range established by the best comparables in this record. Therefore, after considering adjustments to the best comparables for differences from the subject, the Board finds the appellants 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: July 18, 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

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