



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

APPELLANT: Cynthia Werts
DOCKET NO.: 21-20500.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 05-17-119-014-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Cynthia Werts, 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: \$31,500
IMPR.: \$66,822
TOTAL: \$98,322

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 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 two-story dwelling of frame exterior construction with 3,987 square feet of living area. The dwelling is approximately 103 years old. Features of the home include a partial basement with finished area,¹ central air conditioning, a fireplace and a 1-car garage. The property has an approximately 14,000 square foot site and is located in Winnetka, New Trier 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 with respect to the improvement as the basis of the appeal. In support of this argument the appellant submitted information on four equity comparables that have the same assessment neighborhood code and property classification code as the subject property. The comparables are improved with dwellings of frame exterior

¹ The board of review disclosed the subject has a basement recreation room, which was not refuted by the appellant.

construction ranging in size from 3,280 to 4,413 square feet of living area. The homes are from 106 to 158 years old. The comparables each have a full or partial basement.² Each comparable has central air conditioning, one to six fireplaces and from a 1½-car to a 4-car garage. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$52,154 to \$69,684 or from \$15.05 to \$16.15 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested the subject's improvement assessment be reduced to \$62,676 or \$15.72 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 \$98,322. The subject property has an improvement assessment of \$66,822 or \$16.76 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 that have same assessment neighborhood code and property classification code as the subject property. The comparables are improved with two-story dwellings of frame or stucco exterior construction ranging in size from 2,936 to 4,470 square feet of living area. The homes are from 97 to 111 years old. The comparables each have a full or partial basement, one of which has finished area. Each comparable has central air conditioning, one to three fireplaces and a 1-car or a 2-car garage. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$61,667 to \$90,664 or from \$18.52 to \$21.50 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 has given less weight to the appellant's comparables #2 and #3, as well as board of review comparables #1, #2 and #4 which differ from the subject in dwelling size.

The Board finds the best evidence of assessment equity to be the appellant's comparables #1 and #4, along with board of review comparable #3 which are similar to the subject in location and dwelling size. However, none of the comparables were reported to have basement finish, like the subject and the appellant's comparable #4 is considerably older in age when compared to the subject, suggesting upward adjustments would be required to make the comparables more equivalent to the subject. Conversely, two comparables have an additional fireplace and each comparable has a larger garage size, when compared to the subject, suggesting downward

² The appellant did not provide any data regarding basement finish of the comparables.

adjustments would be required for these features. Nevertheless, the comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$60,289 to \$70,850 or from \$15.05 to \$18.52 per square foot of living area. The subject's improvement assessment of \$66,822 or \$16.76 per square foot of living area falls within the range established by the best comparables in the record. Based on this record and after considering adjustments to the best 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: _____

October 15, 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

Cynthia Werts, by attorney:
Robert Rosenfeld
Robert H. Rosenfeld & Associates, LLC
40 Skokie Blvd
Suite 150
Northbrook, IL 60062

COUNTY

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