



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

APPELLANT: Susan & Scott Sims
DOCKET NO.: 21-21433.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 05-34-107-042-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Susan & Scott Sims, the appellants, by attorney Dora Cornelio, of Schmidt Salzman & Moran, Ltd. 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: \$8,248
IMPR.: \$51,509
TOTAL: \$59,757

Subject only to the State multiplier as applicable.

Statement of Jurisdiction

The appellants 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 masonry exterior construction with 1,888 square feet of living area. The dwelling is approximately 20 years old. Features of the home include a full unfinished basement, 2½ bathrooms, central air conditioning, one fireplace, and a two-car garage. The property has a 4,124 square foot site and is located in Wilmette, New Trier Township, Cook County. The subject is classified as a class 2-95 property under the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance.

The appellants contend assessment inequity concerning the improvement as the basis of the appeal. In support of this argument, the appellants submitted information on five equity comparables¹ located in the same neighborhood code as the subject. The appellants supplied property characteristics printouts with additional data concerning basement, basement finish and

¹ For ease of reference, the Board has renumbered the last property to comparable #5.

half-bath features which have been added for clarity and an error has been corrected as comparable #2 lacks a garage based on the printout data. The comparables consist of class 2-95 two-story dwellings of masonry, or frame and masonry exterior construction. The dwellings range in age from 49 to 61 years old and range in size from 1,598 to 1,661 square feet of living area. Four comparables have full unfinished basements and comparable #5 lacks a basement foundation. Each comparable has central air conditioning and 1 or 2 bathrooms and either 1 or 2 half-baths. Comparable #5 has a fireplace and two comparables have either a one-car or a two-car garage. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$25,261 to \$26,728 or from \$15.69 to \$16.09 per square foot of living area.

Based on this evidence, the appellants requested a reduced improvement assessment of \$29,849 or \$15.81 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 \$59,757. The subject property has an improvement assessment of \$51,509 or \$27.28 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 neighborhood code and on the same block or within ¼ of a mile from the subject. The comparables consist of class 2-95 two-story dwellings of frame or masonry exterior construction that are 2 or 20 years old. The homes range in size from 1,600 to 1,815 square feet of living area. Each comparable has a full or partial basement with a formal recreation room, 1½ or 3½ bathrooms, central air conditioning, and from a two-car garage. Comparable #1 has a fireplace. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$53,855 to \$81,238 or from \$33.66 to \$45.03 per square foot of living area.

Based on this evidence, the board of review requested confirmation of the subject's assessment.

Conclusion of Law

The taxpayers 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 a total of nine equity comparables to support their respective positions before the Property Tax Appeal Board. While none of the comparables are particularly similar to the subject property, the Board has given reduced weight to the appellants' comparables as well as board of review comparable #1, due to substantial differences in age which range from 49 to 61 years old when compared to the subject dwelling that is 20 years old and/or dwelling size differences that range from approximately 12% to 15% when compared to the subject.

On this limited record, the Board finds the best evidence of assessment equity are board of review comparables #2, #3 and #4, which are each admittedly newer in age at 2 years old as compared to the 20-year-old subject, but present similarities in dwelling size, basement size, air conditioning and garage capacity. Downward adjustments to each of these best comparables are necessary for newer age, bathroom count, finished basement feature in order to make the comparables more similar to the subject. Likewise, upward adjustments are necessary to account for the lack of a fireplace which is a feature of the subject. These best comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$75,962 to \$81,238 or from \$42.10 to \$45.03 per square foot of living area. The subject's improvement assessment of \$51,509 or \$27.28 per square foot of living area falls below the range established by the best comparables in this record both in terms of overall improvement assessment and on a per-square-foot of living area basis which appears to be logical given the subject's age, size and lack of basement finish.

The constitutional provision for uniformity of taxation and valuation does not require mathematical equality. The requirement is satisfied if the intent is evident to adjust the taxation burden with a reasonable degree of uniformity and if such is the effect of the statute enacted by the General Assembly establishing the method of assessing real property in its general operation. A practical uniformity, rather than an absolute one, is the test. Apex Motor Fuel Co. v. Barrett, 20 Ill. 2d 395 (1960). Although the comparables presented by the parties disclosed that properties located in the same area are not assessed at identical levels, all that the constitution requires is a practical uniformity which appears to exist on the basis of the evidence.

Based on this record and after considering appropriate adjustments to the best comparables for differences when compared to the subject property, 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

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: March 18, 2025

Clerk of the Property Tax Appeal Board

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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