



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

APPELLANT: Arlene Siavelis
DOCKET NO.: 21-25074.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 05-20-119-028-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Arlene Siavelis, the appellant, by attorney Abby L. Strauss of Schiller Law P.C. 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: \$21,037
IMPR.: \$69,975
TOTAL: \$91,012

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 and masonry exterior construction with 4,352 square feet of living area. The dwelling is approximately 70 years old. The home features a full basement with finished area,¹ three full bathrooms, one half bathroom, two fireplaces and a 2-car garage. The property has a 14,025 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 property classification code as the subject, none of which have

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

the same assessment neighborhood code as the subject. The comparables are located in either Northfield, Wilmette or Winnetka and are improved with dwellings of frame and masonry exterior construction ranging in size from 4,410 to 4,657 square feet of living area. The dwellings are from 65 to 83 years old. The comparables each have a full or partial basement. No data was provided by the appellant concerning finished basement area. Each comparable has central air conditioning, three or four full bathrooms, one to three fireplaces and either a 2-car, a 2.5-car or a 3-car garage. The comparables have improvement assessments that range from \$28,124 to \$54,767 or from \$6.38 to \$11.76 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested the subject's improvement assessment be reduced to \$44,303 or \$10.18 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 \$91,012. The subject property has an improvement assessment of \$69,975 or \$16.08 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 the same assessment neighborhood code and property classification code as the subject. The comparables are located approximately ¼ of a mile from the subject property in the same city. The comparables are improved with two-story dwellings of frame and masonry exterior construction ranging in size from 3,611 to 4,429 square feet of living area. The dwellings are 82 or 89 years old. The comparables each have a full or partial basement, two of which have finished area. Three comparables have central air conditioning. Each comparable has three or four full bathrooms, one or two fireplaces and either a 1-car, a 1.5-car, a 2-car or a 3-car garage. Three comparables each have an additional half bathroom. The comparables have improvement assessments that range from \$68,717 to \$88,751 or from \$17.55 to \$21.50 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence, the board of review requested confirmation of the subject's assessment.

In written rebuttal, counsel for the appellant argued that the board of review comparables #2, #3 and #4 differ from the subject in age and board of review comparable #1 differs from the subject in living area.

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 a total of eight comparable properties for the Board's consideration. The Board has given less weight to the appellant's comparables which have a different assessment neighborhood code than the subject and/or are located in a different city than the subject

property. The Board has given reduced weight to board of review comparable #1 due to its smaller dwelling size when compared to the subject.

The Board finds the best evidence of assessment equity to be board of review comparables #2, #3 and #4, which have the same assessment neighborhood code as the subject and are located within ¼ of a mile from the subject property in the same city. The comparables are similar to the subject in dwelling size and design. However, all three dwellings are 19 years older than the subject and have features with varying degrees of similarity when compared to the subject, suggesting adjustments would be required to make the comparables more equivalent to the subject. Nevertheless, the comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$70,270 to \$88,751 or from \$17.55 to \$21.50 per square foot of living area. The subject's improvement assessment of \$69,975 or \$16.08 per square foot of living area falls below the range established by the best comparables in the record. Based on this record and after considering adjustments to the best comparables for differences when compared to 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

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

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