



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

APPELLANT: Mel & Barbara Sovereign  
DOCKET NO.: 21-25932.001-R-1  
PARCEL NO.: 02-15-407-049-1072

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Mel & Barbara Sovereign, the appellant(s), by attorney Jessica Hill-Magiera, Attorney at Law in Lake Zurich; and the Cook County Board of Review.

Based on the facts and exhibits presented in this matter, the Property Tax Appeal Board hereby finds **A Reduction** 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:** \$658  
**IMPR.:** \$9,692  
**TOTAL:** \$10,350

Subject only to the State multiplier as applicable.

**Statement of Jurisdiction**

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 single condominium unit with a 1.2680% ownership interest in the common elements of a condominium building located in Palatine, Palatine Township, Cook County. The subject property is classified as a class 2-99 property under the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance.

Appellant's appeal is based on overvaluation. In support of this argument, appellant submitted evidence disclosing the subject property was purchased on February 17, 2021, for a price of \$103,500. In Section IV of the appeal form, appellant indicates the subject property sold by a realtor, was advertised for sale, and the parties to the transaction were not family members. Appellant also submitted a copies of the ALTA Settlement Statement, MLS print out, and PTAX-203 Transfer Declaration. In addition, appellant submitted a copy of the board of

review's decision reflecting the subject property was assessed at \$13,341. Based on this evidence, appellant requested a total assessment reduction for the subject property to \$10,350.

In support of its contention of the correct assessment, the board of review submitted its "Board of Review – Notes on Appeal" disclosing the subject property's total assessment of \$13,341. In its "PTAB Docket," the board of review indicates its assessment analysis using the sale of 32 condominium units in the same building as the subject property. The 32 sales comparables result in a total sales amount of \$2,755,300. After applying the total percentage ownership interest in the common elements of the 32 comparable sales of 24.9726%, the board of review calculated a total market value of the subject unit's building as \$11,033,292. Finally, the board of review calculated a full market value of the subject property of \$139,902, or \$13,990, after applying the level of assessment for class 2 property of 10.00% under the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance.

In rebuttal, appellant submitted a brief stating that the board of review did not dispute the sale of the subject property or provide evidence that the sale was not valid. Appellant argued that the board's evidence was not responsive or relevant to the basis of the appeal.

### **Conclusion of Law**

Appellant contends the market value of the subject property is not accurately reflected in its assessed valuation. When market value is the basis of the appeal the value of the property must be proved by a preponderance of the evidence. 86 Ill.Admin.Code §1910.63(e). Proof of market value may consist of an appraisal of the subject property, a recent sale, comparable sales or construction costs. 86 Ill.Admin.Code §1910.65(c). The Board finds appellant *met* this burden of proof and a reduction in the subject's assessment *is* warranted.

Based on this record, the Board finds the best evidence of market value is the sale of the subject property of \$103,500. Appellant provided evidence demonstrating the sale had the elements of an arm's length transaction. Appellant completed Section IV - Recent Sale Data of the appeal disclosing the parties to the transaction were not related and the property had been advertised on the open market. In further support of the transaction, appellant submitted a copy of the settlement statement. The Board finds the purchase price is below the market value reflected by the assessment. The Board finds the board of review did not present any evidence to challenge the arm's length nature of the transaction. Since market value has been determined the median level of assessments for class 2 property under the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance of 10% shall apply. 86 Ill.Admin.Code §1910.50(c)(2). Accordingly, the appellant did prove by preponderance of the evidence that the subject property was over valued and a reduction in the subject's assessment is 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: \_\_\_\_\_

June 17, 2025



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

Mel & Barbara Sovereign, by attorney:  
Jessica Hill-Magiera  
Attorney at Law  
790 Harvest Drive  
Lake Zurich, IL 60047

COUNTY

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