



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

APPELLANT: Bill James
DOCKET NO.: 21-30923.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 13-25-311-029-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Bill James, the appellant, by attorney Brian S. Maher, of Weis, DuBrock, Doody & Maher 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: \$29,880
IMPR.: \$81,289
TOTAL: \$111,169

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 2-story building of masonry exterior construction with 5,474 square feet of building area. The building is approximately 113 years old. Features include a basement finished with a recreation room, central air conditioning, and a 2.5-car garage.¹ The property has a 5,976 square foot site and is located in Chicago, West Chicago Township, Cook County. The subject is classified as a class 2-11 property under the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance.

The appellant contends assessment inequity regarding the improvement as the basis of the appeal. In support of this argument the appellant submitted information on four equity comparables located within the same assessment neighborhood code as the subject. The

¹ The parties differ regarding the subject's garage size. The Board finds the best evidence of garage size is found in the board of review's evidence, which was not refuted by the appellant.

comparables are improved with 2-story or 3-story multi-family buildings of masonry exterior construction ranging in size from 4,092 to 5,169 square feet of building area. The buildings range in age from 106 to 118 years old. Each comparable has a basement, one of which is finished with an apartment, and three comparables each have a 3.5-car garage. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$53,950 to \$72,000 or from \$13.03 to \$13.93 per square foot of building area. Based on this evidence the appellant requested a reduction in the subject's improvement assessment to \$73,899.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" disclosing the total assessment for the subject of \$111,169. The subject property has an improvement assessment of \$81,289 or \$14.85 per square foot of building area.

In support of its contention of the correct assessment the board of review submitted information on four equity comparables located within the same assessment neighborhood code as the subject. The comparables are improved with 2-story or 3-story, class 2-11 buildings of masonry exterior construction ranging in size from 4,600 to 5,675 square feet of building area. The buildings are 115 or 126 years old. Each comparable has a basement, one of which is finished with a recreation room, and one comparable has a 3-car garage. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$64,750 to \$97,213 or from \$12.68 to \$17.13 per square foot of building area. Based on this evidence the board of review requested confirmation of the subject's assessment.

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 record contains a total of eight equity comparables for the Board's consideration. The Board gives less weight to the appellant's comparables #2, #3, and #4 and the board of review's comparables #1, #2, and #3, due to substantial differences from the subject in design and/or building size.

The Board finds the best evidence of assessment equity to be the appellant's comparable #1 and the board of review's comparable #4, which are more similar to the subject in design, building size, age, location, and some features, although these comparables lack finished basement area, central air conditioning, and a garage that are features of the subject, suggesting upward adjustments to these comparables would be needed to make them more equivalent to the subject. These comparables have improvement assessments of \$62,470 and \$64,750 or \$13.03 and \$12.68 per square foot of building area, respectively. The subject's improvement assessment of \$81,289 or \$14.85 per square foot of building area falls above the two best comparables in this record.

However, after considering appropriate adjustments to the best comparables for differences from the subject, including the subject's considerably larger building size compared to the best two comparables, the Board finds the subject's improvement assessment is supported. Based on this record 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: _____

May 20, 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

Bill James, by attorney:
Brian S. Maher
Weis, DuBrock, Doody & Maher
1 North LaSalle Street
Suite 1500
Chicago, IL 60602

COUNTY

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