



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

APPELLANT: Richard F. Bruen, Jr.
DOCKET NO.: 21-33276.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 16-26-123-009-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Richard F. Bruen, Jr., the appellant, by attorney Christopher G. Walsh, Jr., of Walsh Law, LLC 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: \$4,899
IMPR.: \$21,794
TOTAL: \$26,693

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 3,027 square feet of building area. The building is approximately 113 years old. Features include a basement finished with an apartment and a 1-car garage. The property has a 4,170 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's appeal is based on overvaluation. In support of this argument the appellant submitted evidence disclosing the subject property was purchased on January 22, 2019 for a price of \$260,000. The appellant completed Section IV of the appeal petition disclosing the sale was not between related parties, the property was sold using a realtor and was advertised for sale through unknown means and for an unknown period of time, and the sale was not due to

foreclosure or by contract for deed. In support of the sale, the appellant submitted a copy of a closing disclosure reflecting only the seller's side of the sale transaction. This disclosure indicates payment of realtors' commission and discloses an unidentified credit paid by the seller in the amount of \$5,000. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested a reduction in the subject's assessment to reflect the purchase price.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" disclosing the total assessment for the subject of \$26,693. The subject's assessment reflects a market value of \$266,930 or \$88.18 per square foot of building area, land included, when using the level of assessment for class 2 property of 10% under the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance.

In support of its contention of the correct assessment the board of review submitted information on three comparable sales located within the same assessment neighborhood code as the subject, one of which is 0.25 of a mile from the subject. The parcels range in size from 3,000 to 4,125 square feet of land area and are improved with 2-story, class 2-11 buildings ranging in size from 1,668 to 1,820 square feet of building area. The buildings range in age from 108 to 121 years old. Each comparable has a slab foundation and two comparables each have a 1-car garage. The comparables sold from July to November 2021 for prices ranging from \$260,000 to \$275,000 or from \$148.35 to \$164.87 per square foot of building area, including land. Based on this evidence the board of review requested the subject's assessment be sustained.

Conclusion of Law

The 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 the appellant did not meet this burden of proof and a reduction in the subject's assessment is not warranted.

The appellant presented evidence of a January 2019 sale of the subject and the board of review presented three comparable sales in support of their respective positions before the Board. The Board gave less weight to the subject's sale due to the fact the sale did not occur proximate in time to the assessment date at issue, occurring almost two years prior to the assessment date. Furthermore, the \$5,000 credit from the seller that was part of the transaction was not explained and the appellant provided documentation only of the seller's side of the sale transaction.

The Board finds the best evidence of market value in the record to be the board of review's comparables, which sold proximate in time to the assessment date and are similar to the subject in design, age, site size, location, and some features, although these comparables are substantially smaller buildings than the subject, each comparable lacks a basement that is a feature of the subject, and one comparable lacks a garage that is a feature of the subject, suggesting upward adjustments to these comparables would be needed to make them more equivalent to the subject. These comparables sold for prices ranging from \$260,000 to \$275,000 or from \$148.35 to \$164.87 per square foot of building area, including land. The subject's assessment reflects a market value of \$266,930 or \$88.18 per square foot of building area,

including land, which is within the range established by the comparables in terms of total market value and below the range on a per square foot basis, which is logical given the subject's larger building size compared to the comparables. Based on this record and after considering appropriate adjustments to the comparables for differences from the subject, the Board finds the subject's assessment is reflective of market value 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

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