



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

APPELLANT: Michael Siska  
DOCKET NO.: 21-40548.001-R-1  
PARCEL NO.: 14-20-312-032-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Michael Siska, 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:** \$56,250  
**IMPR.:** \$122,246  
**TOTAL:** \$178,496

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 3-story dwelling of masonry construction with 3,860 square feet of living area. The dwelling is approximately 113 years old. Features of the home include a full basement, that has finished area, central air conditioning and a 2-car garage. The property has a 3,750 square foot site and is located in Chicago, Lake View 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 subject's improvement as the basis of the appeal. In support of this argument the appellant submitted information on four comparable properties located within the same neighborhood code as the subject. The comparables are improved with class 2-06 dwellings of masonry construction ranging in size from 3,449 to 4,006 square feet of living area. The dwellings range in age from 112 to 122 years

old and have full or partial basements. The appellant did not disclose whether the comparables' basements have any finished area. Two comparables have central air conditioning and either one or three fireplaces, and two comparables have either a 2-car or a 2.5-car garage. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$11,569 to \$99,200 or from \$3.13 to \$25.69 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence the appellant requested a reduction in the subject's improvement assessment.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal." The subject has a total assessment of \$178,496. The subject property has an improvement assessment of \$122,246 or \$31.67 per square foot of living area. In support of its contention of the correct assessment the board of review submitted information on four comparable properties located within the same neighborhood code as the subject. The board of review reported two of the comparables are also located on the same block as the subject. The comparables are improved with class 2-06 dwellings of masonry construction ranging in size from 3,452 to 4,066 square feet of living area. The dwellings range in age from 109 to 113 years old and have full or partial basements, each of which has finished area. Three comparables have central air conditioning, one of which also has a fireplace, and each comparable has from a 2-car to a 3-car garage. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$130,395 to \$180,625 or from \$35.28 to \$44.42 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 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 Board finds the best evidence of assessment equity to be the board of review's comparables. These comparables have varying degrees of similarity to the subject. The best comparables had improvement assessments that ranged from \$130,395 to \$180,625 or from \$35.28 to \$44.42 per square foot of living area. The subject's improvement assessment of \$122,246 or \$31.67 per square foot of living area falls below the range established by the best comparables in this record. After considering adjustments to the best comparables for differences when compared to the subject, the Board finds the subject's improvement assessment is well supported. The Board gave less weight to the appellant's comparables, due to their improvement assessment being an outlier when compared to the improvement assessments of the other properties in this record and/or the lack of information regarding whether the comparables' basements have finished area. 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 warranted.

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: March 18, 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

Michael Siska, by attorney:  
Abby L. Strauss  
Schiller Law P.C.  
33 North Dearborn  
Suite 1130  
Chicago, IL 60602

COUNTY

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