



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

APPELLANT: Harry Fitzsimmons
DOCKET NO.: 21-45047.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 24-12-316-076-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Harry Fitzsimmons, the appellant, by attorney Gregory J. Hilton, of Property Tax Solutions 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: \$3,920
IMPR.: \$23,080
TOTAL: \$27,000

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 dwelling of masonry construction with 1,251 square feet of living area. The dwelling is 60 years old. Features of the home include a full basement, that has finished area and central air conditioning. The property has a 3,920 square foot site and is located in Chicago, Lake Township, Cook County. The subject is classified as a class 2-03 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 five comparable properties located within the same neighborhood code as the subject. The comparables are improved with 1-story dwellings of masonry construction ranging in size from 1,144 to 1,479 square feet of living area. The dwellings range in age from 57 to 67 years old. The appellant did not disclose whether the comparables have basement foundations or any

finished basement area. One comparable has central air conditioning and one comparable has a 2-car garage. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$17,156 to \$19,660 or from \$11.87 to \$16.04 per square foot of living area. The appellant included a brief addressing evidence supplied by the Cook County Board of Review during a prior hearing, which the appellant also included. 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" disclosing the total assessment for the subject of \$27,000. The subject property has an improvement assessment of \$23,080 or \$18.45 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, three of which are located within the same neighborhood code as the subject. The comparables are improved with 1-story or 1.5-story dwellings of frame or masonry construction ranging in size from 1,038 to 1,177 square feet of living area. The dwellings range in age from 66 to 82 years old and have full basements, two of which have finished area. Each comparable has a 2-car garage. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$11,451 to \$22,555 or from \$9.96 to \$19.16 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.

As a preliminary matter regarding the appellant's arguments addressing the evidence used by the County Board of Review during the prior hearing, the Board finds all proceedings before the Property Tax Appeal Board shall be considered de novo meaning the Board will consider only the evidence, exhibits and briefs submitted to it, and will not give any weight or consideration to any prior actions by a local board of review.

The Board finds the best evidence of assessment equity to be the board of review's comparables #1, #3 and #4. These comparables have varying degrees of similarity to the subject. However, each of the best comparables lack central air conditioning and two lack finished basement area when compared to the subject. Albeit each has a 2-car garage when compared to the subject. Nevertheless, the best comparables had improvement assessments that ranged from \$19,834 to \$22,555 or from \$19.02 to \$19.16 per square foot of living area. The subject's improvement assessment of \$23,080 or \$18.45 per square foot of living area falls slightly above the range established by the best comparables in this record on a total improvement assessment basis but within the range on a per square foot basis. However, after considering adjustments to the best comparables for differences when compared to the subject, such as their lack of central air conditioning, the Board finds the subject's slightly higher total improvement assessment is

justified. The Board gave less weight to the appellant's comparables, due to the lack of information regarding their foundation type and finish. The Board also gives less weight to the board of review's comparable #2, due to its location outside the subject's neighborhood code. 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

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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