



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

APPELLANT: Michael Witthoft
DOCKET NO.: 21-48641.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 13-26-307-026-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Michael Witthoft, the appellant(s), by attorney Andreas Mamalakis, of the Law Offices of Andreas Mamalakis in Kenosha; 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: \$13,125
IMPR.: \$22,372
TOTAL: \$35,497

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 two-story dwelling of masonry construction with 2,304 square feet of living area. The dwelling is approximately 110 years old. Features of the home include a full basement and a two-car garage. The property has a 3,750 square foot site and is located in Chicago, Jefferson 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 as the basis of the appeal. In support of this argument the appellant submitted information on five class 2-11 equity comparable properties with varying degrees of similarities to the subject which are located within a 0.75-mile radius of the subject. The improvements ranged: in age from 101 to 115 years; in size from 1,932 to 2,697 square feet of living area; and in improvement assessment from \$7.58 to \$10.30 per square foot

of living area. Appellant submits that this is an owner-occupied residence. Based on this evidence the appellant is seeking a reduction in the subject's assessment.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" disclosing the total assessment for the subject of \$44,210. The subject property has an improvement assessment of \$31,085 or \$13.49 per square foot of living area. In support of its contention of the correct assessment the board of review submitted information on four class 2-11 equity comparable properties with varying degrees of similarities to the subject which are located within the same neighborhood code as the subject but for which the board of review did not provide proximity to the subject. The improvements ranged: in age from 107 to 118 years; in size from 2,440 to 3,020 square feet of living area; and in improvement assessment from \$19.98 to \$21.60 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 met this burden of proof and a reduction in the subject's assessment is warranted.

The parties submitted nine equity comparable properties for the Board's consideration in determining assessment equity. The Board finds the best evidence of assessment equity to be appellant's comparables #2, #4, and #5. The suggested comparables offered by the board of review were of unknown proximity to the subject and three of them had considerably more square feet of living area than the subject. Appellant's comparables #2, #4 and #5 were similar to the subject in age, size, bathrooms, and no central air conditioning. One of these comparables had a full basement like the subject while the others had a crawlspace or a slab foundation. Two of these comparables had a two-car garage like the subject while the other had a one-car garage. These comparable properties were similar to the subject and had improvement assessments that ranged from \$8.66 to \$10.30 per square foot of living area. The subject's improvement assessment of \$13.49 per square foot of living area falls above the range established by the best comparable properties in this record. Based on this record the Board finds the appellant did demonstrate with clear and convincing evidence that the subject's improvement was inequitably assessed 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: _____

December 23, 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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