



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

APPELLANT: Dimirtris Bouhoustsos
DOCKET NO.: 21-50347.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 13-03-122-001-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Dimirtris Bouhoustsos, the appellant, by attorney Noah J. Schmidt, of Schmidt Salzman & Moran, Ltd. 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: \$19,998
IMPR.: \$100,611
TOTAL: \$120,609

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 exterior construction with 4,173 square feet of living area. The dwelling is approximately 86 years old. Features of the home include a basement with finished area, central air conditioning, two fireplaces and a 1-car garage. The property has an approximately 8,888 square foot site and is located in Chicago, Jefferson 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 improvement as the basis of the appeal. In support of this argument the appellant submitted information on five equity comparables located in the same assessment neighborhood code as the subject property. The comparables are improved with 1-story or 2-story class 2-06 dwellings of stucco, masonry or frame and masonry exterior construction ranging in size from 4,023 to 4,438 square feet of living

area. The homes range in age from 65 to 85 years old. Four comparables have a basement, two of which have a finished recreation room and one comparable has a concrete slab foundation. Three dwellings have central air conditioning, three homes have either one or two fireplaces and four comparables have each have a 2-car garage. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$59,787 to \$76,334 or from \$14.86 to \$17.45 per square foot of living area.

The appellant also submitted parcel search detail sheets for each of the comparable properties which included photographs. The parcel search details for appellant comparable #5 report the property has no garage, however, the photograph of this comparable property includes a 2-car detached garage with a 2nd story. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested the subject's improvement assessment be reduced to \$67,602 or \$16.20 per square foot of living area.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" disclosing the total assessment for the subject of \$120,609. The subject property has an improvement assessment of \$100,611 or \$24.11 per square foot of living area. In support of its contention of the correct assessment the board of review submitted information on four equity comparables located in the same assessment neighborhood code as the subject property. The comparables are improved with 2-story class 2-06 dwellings of masonry exterior construction ranging in size from 4,250 to 4,456 square feet of living area. The homes range in age from 73 to 91 years old. Each comparable has a basement, with three having finished area. Each dwelling has one or two fireplaces and a 2-car or a 2.5-car garage. Two dwellings have central air conditioning. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$88,100 to \$96,725 or from \$20.14 to \$22.20 per square foot of living area.

The board of review's grid analysis disclosed the subject property sold on October 30, 2020 for a price of \$1,425,000. Based on this evidence, the board of review requested the subject's assessment be confirmed.

Conclusion of Law

The appellant 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 parties submitted nine equity comparables for the Board's consideration. The Board gives less weight to appellant comparables #1 through #4 which differ from the subject in design, foundation type or unfinished basement area. The Board gives less weight to appellant comparable #5 which, based on the parcel search details submitted by the appellant, presents conflicting information regarding this property's garage amenity. The Board also gives less weight to board of review comparable #3 which has an unfinished basement in contrast to the subject's finished basement.

The Board finds the best evidence of assessment equity to be board of review comparables #1, #2 and #4 which are more similar to the subject in location, age, design, dwelling size and some features, although two of these properties lack central air conditioning suggesting adjustments are needed to make these properties more equivalent to the subject. These best comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$90,950 to \$96,725 or from \$21.34 to \$22.20 per square foot of living area. The subject's improvement assessment of \$100,611 or \$24.11 per square foot of living area falls above the range established by the best comparables in this record. Accepted real estate theory provides that, all things being equal, as the size of a property increases, the per unit value decreases. In contrast, as the size of a property decreases, the per unit value increases. Given the subject's slightly smaller dwelling size, relative to the best comparables in the record, a higher per square foot improvement assessment appears logical. Therefore, after considering adjustments to the comparables for differences from the subject, 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.

The constitutional provision for uniformity of taxation and valuation does not require mathematical equality. A practical uniformity, rather than an absolute one, is the test. Apex Motor Fuel Co. v. Barrett, 20 Ill.2d 395 (1960). Although the comparables presented by the parties disclosed that properties located in the same area are not assessed at identical levels, all that the constitution requires is a practical uniformity, which appears to exist on the basis of the evidence in this record.

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: _____

January 21, 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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