



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

APPELLANT: Brendan Murphy  
DOCKET NO.: 22-20658.001-R-1  
PARCEL NO.: 13-18-408-014-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Brendan Murphy, the appellant, by attorney Katherine Amari O'Dell, of Amari & Locallo, 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 **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:** \$4,875  
**IMPR.:** \$6,625  
**TOTAL:** \$11,500

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 2022 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 one-story dwelling of frame exterior construction with 830 square feet of living area. The dwelling is approximately 62 years old. Features of the home include a concrete slab foundation and 1 full bathroom. The property has a 3,750 square foot site and is located in Harwood Heights, Norwood Park Township, Cook County. The subject is classified as a class 2-02 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 completed Section IV – Recent Sale Data of the appeal petition reporting that the subject property was purchased on November 23, 2021 for a price of \$115,000. The appellant further reported the property was sold by Midwest Care Management NFP, Guardian of the Estate of John Taterka, a disabled person, the parties to the transaction were not related and the property

sold through the use of a Realtor. The property was listed for sale on the market with the Multiple Listing Service (MLS) for a period of 27 days. Furthermore, the appellant reported the property did not sell due to a foreclosure action nor was the property sold using a contract for deed. The appellant submitted a copy of the Settlement Statement which reiterates the date of sale and sale price and also depicts the distribution of two commissions related to the sale. The copy of the MLS listing sheet depicts the original asking price of \$115,000 and that the property was placed on the market on September 9, 2021. 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." The appellant submitted a copy of the final decision disclosing the total assessment for the subject of \$17,000. The subject's assessment reflects a market value of \$170,000 or \$204.82 per square foot of living area, land included, when using the level of assessment for class 2 property under the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance of 10%.

As part of the grid analysis, the board of review depicts that the subject property sold on December 16, 2021 for a price of \$115,000.

In support of its contention of the correct assessment, the board of review submitted information on four suggested comparables, where comparables #1 and #2 depict sales, which are located in the subject's neighborhood code. As equity comparables #3 and #4 are not responsive to the appeal, the Board will not further address this evidence. The parcels contain 10,046 square feet of land area and are improved with a class 2-02 one-story dwellings of frame and masonry exterior construction which are 66 years old. The homes contain 958 square feet of gross living area with full basements, one of which has finished area. One home has central air conditioning, one home has a fireplace, and each has a 1-car and a 1.5-car garage. These comparables sold in July 2021 for prices of \$358,000 and \$369,900 or for \$373.70 and \$386.12 per square foot of living area, including land. Based on this evidence, the board of review requested confirmation of the subject's assessment.

### **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 met this burden of proof and a reduction in the subject's assessment is warranted.

Both parties reported that the subject property sold in late 2021 for a price of \$115,000, which the appellant supported with documentation of the Settlement Statement and the MLS listing sheet. In its evidentiary submission, the board of review did not refute the subject's reported recent sale price and instead provided two suggested comparable sale which have significantly larger lots, older homes and full basement, superior to the subject's concrete slab foundation.

The Board has given reduced weight to appellant's comparable sales #1 and #2 which are superior in dwelling size and foundation when compared to the subject. In addition, comparable

#2 is also superior to the subject by having central air conditioning. Each of these comparables are also superior due to the presence of garages which is not a feature of the subject.

The Board finds the best evidence of market value to be the purchase of the subject property in November, 2021 for a price of \$115,000. The appellant provided evidence demonstrating the sale had the elements of an arm's length transaction. The appellant completed Section IV - Recent Sale Data of the appeal disclosing the parties to the transaction were not related, the property was sold using a Realtor, the property had been advertised on the open market with the Multiple Listing Service and it had been on the market for 27 days. In further support of the transaction the appellant submitted a copy of the settlement statement and the MLS listing sheet. The Board finds the purchase price of \$115,000 is below the market value reflected by the assessment of \$170,000. The Board finds the board of review did not present any evidence to challenge the arm's length nature of the transaction or to refute the contention that the purchase price was reflective of market value; instead, the board of review likewise reported that the subject sold in later 2021 for a price of \$115,000. Based on this record the Board finds the subject property had a market value of \$115,000 as of January 1, 2022. Since market value has been determined the level of assessment for class 2 property under the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance of 10% shall apply. 86 Ill.Admin.Code §1910.50(c)(2)

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: \_\_\_\_\_

September 16, 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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