



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

APPELLANT: Michelle Solberg
DOCKET NO.: 22-21974.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 01-01-124-016-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Michelle Solberg, the appellant, by attorney Dora Cornelio 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: \$10,164
IMPR.: \$46,599
TOTAL: \$56,763

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 two-story dwelling of frame exterior construction with 2,691 square feet of living area. The dwelling is approximately 114 years old. The home features a full basement that is finished with a formal recreation room, two full bathrooms, one half bathroom,¹ a fireplace and a two-car garage. The property has a 10,164 square foot site and is located in Barrington, Barrington 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 that have the same assessment neighborhood code and property classification code

¹ The board of review disclosed the subject dwelling has an additional half bathroom, which was not refuted by the appellant.

as the subject. The comparables are improved with two-story dwellings of frame or stucco exterior construction ranging in size from 2,432 to 2,871 square feet of living area. The dwellings are from 70 to 124 years old. The comparables each have a full unfinished basement. According to the property characteristic printouts provided by the appellant, each comparable has two full bathrooms, two comparables each have an additional half bathroom, three comparables have central air conditioning, four comparables each have one or two fireplaces and each comparable has a two-car garage. The comparables have improvement assessments that range from \$27,350 to \$43,329 or from \$11.25 to \$15.09 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested the subject's improvement assessment be reduced to \$33,180 or \$12.33 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 \$56,763. The subject property has an improvement assessment of \$46,599 or \$17.32 per square foot of living area.

In support of its contention of the correct assessment the board of review submitted information on four comparables that have the same assessment neighborhood code and property classification code as the subject. The comparables are located within the same block as the subject property, three of which are also along the same street as the subject. The comparables are improved with two-story dwellings of frame exterior construction ranging in size from 2,244 to 3,338 square feet of living area. The dwellings are from 114 to 137 years old. The comparables each have a full basement, one of which is finished with a formal recreation room. Each comparable has either two or four full bathrooms and from a one-car to a two-car garage. Three comparables have central air conditioning, one comparable has an additional half bathroom and three comparables each have one or two fireplaces. The comparables have improvement assessments that range from \$43,288 to \$78,430 or from \$17.65 to \$23.50 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 parties submitted nine comparable properties for the Board's consideration. The Board has given less weight to the appellant's comparables #1, #2, #3 and #4 due to their significantly newer dwelling ages and/or lack of central air conditioning, when compared to the subject. The Board has given reduced weight to board of review comparables #1, #2 and #3, which differ from the subject in dwelling size or lack of central air conditioning.

The Board finds the appellant's comparable #5 and board of review comparable #4 have the same assessment neighborhood code and property classification code as the subject and the dwellings are overall more similar to the subject in size and design. However, the appellant's comparable #5 is 15 years newer in age, while the board of review's comparable #4 is 17 years older in age, when compared to the subject dwelling. Additionally, each dwelling lacks basement finish, a feature of the subject and each dwelling has varying degrees of similarity when compared to the subject in bathroom count and fireplace count. These differences suggest adjustments would be required to make the comparables more equivalent to the subject. Nevertheless, the comparables have improvement assessments of \$43,288 and \$43,329 or \$15.09 and \$17.65 per square foot of living area, respectively. The subject's improvement assessment of \$46,599 or \$17.32 per square foot of living area is greater than the two best comparables in the record in terms of total improvement assessment but is bracketed by the two best comparables on a per square foot basis. The subject's higher overall improvement assessment appears to be logical after considering adjustments to the best comparables for differences from the subject.

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 presented.

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 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: July 15, 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

Michelle Solberg, by attorney:
Dora Cornelio
Schmidt Salzman & Moran, Ltd.
111 W. Washington St.
Suite 1300
Chicago, IL 60602

COUNTY

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