



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

APPELLANT: John Sexton
DOCKET NO.: 22-24387.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 05-21-306-011-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are John Sexton, the appellant, by attorney Abby L. Strauss, of Schiller Law P.C. 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: \$19,470
IMPR.: \$49,665
TOTAL: \$69,135

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 2-story dwelling of frame exterior construction with 1,806 square feet of living area. The dwelling is approximately 99 years old. Features of the home include a full basement, central air conditioning, a fireplace, and a 2-car garage. The property has a 5,900 square foot site and is located in Winnetka, New Trier Township, Cook County. The subject is classified as a class 2-05 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 seven equity comparables that are located within the same assessment neighborhood as the subject. The comparables consist of class 2-05 dwellings of frame exterior construction ranging in size from 1,736 to 2,126 square feet of living area. The dwellings are 94 to 109 years old. The dwellings

have full basements, but no data was provided regarding whether the basements have finished area, if any. Two comparables each have central air conditioning, six comparables each have a fireplace, and each comparable has either a 1-car or a 2-car garage. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$33,809 to \$48,090 or from \$18.43 to \$22.62 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested that the improvement assessment be reduced to \$37,077 or \$20.53 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 \$69,135. The subject property has an improvement assessment of \$49,665 or \$27.50 per square foot of living area.

In support of its contention of the correct assessment, the board of review submitted information on three comparables that are located within the same assessment neighborhood as the subject and approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile from the subject property. The comparables consist of class 2-05, 2-story dwellings of frame exterior construction ranging in size from 1,744 to 1,990 square feet of living area. The comparables are 96 to 109 years old. The dwellings have full basements, two of which have finished area. Each comparable has a fireplace, two comparables have central air conditioning, and two comparables have either a 1-car or a $2\frac{1}{2}$ -car garage. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$55,500 to \$63,840 or from \$28.70 to \$32.24 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence, the board of review requested the assessment be confirmed.

In written rebuttal, counsel for the appellant pointed out the subject dwelling's newer age to the older age of board of review comparable #3.

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 ten equity comparables for the Board's consideration. The Board gives less weight to the appellant's comparables because the appellant did not disclose in the grid analysis whether the basements have finished area, which is needed for the Board to conduct a meaningful comparative analysis of the subject property relative to the comparables. Additionally, appellant's comparables #4, #6 and #7 are considerably less similar to the subject in dwelling size than the other comparables in the record. The Board also gives less weight to the board of review comparable #3 that has an unfinished basement area in contrast to the subject's finished basement area.

The Board finds the best evidence of assessment equity to be the board of review comparables #1 and #2. These comparables are overall more similar to the subject in location, design, age,

dwelling size, and have finished basement area, like the subject. These two comparables have improvement assessments of \$55,500 and \$57,113 or \$31.82 and \$28.70 per square foot of living area, respectively. The subject's improvement assessment of \$49,665 or \$27.50 per square foot of living area falls below the two most similar comparables in this record. After considering adjustments to the two best 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.

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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