



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

APPELLANT: James & Connie Connors
DOCKET NO.: 22-24471.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 05-18-402-086-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are James & Connie Connors, the appellants, by attorney Christopher G. Walsh, Jr., of Walsh Law, LLC 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: \$38,115
IMPR.: \$66,885
TOTAL: \$105,000

Subject only to the State multiplier as applicable.

Statement of Jurisdiction

The appellants 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 1-story dwelling of frame and masonry exterior construction with 3,680 square feet of living area. The dwelling is approximately 50 years old and features a basement, central air conditioning, two fireplaces, a 2-car garage. The property has a 21,780 square foot site and is located in Winnetka, New Trier Township, Cook County. The subject is classified as a class 2-04 property under the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance.

The appellants' appeal is based on overvaluation. In support of this argument the appellants submitted evidence disclosing the subject property was purchased on July 31, 2020 for a price of \$1,050,000. The appellants completed Section IV of the appeal petition disclosing the parties to the sale were not related, the property sold using a realtor and was advertised for sale through the Multiple Listing Service, and the sale is not due to foreclosure or by contract for deed. In support

of the sale, the appellants submitted a copy of a Closing Disclosure reporting realtors' commissions to be paid at closing. Based on this evidence the appellants requested a reduction in the subject's assessment to reflect the purchase price.

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The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" disclosing the total assessment for the subject of \$125,000. The subject's assessment reflects a market value of \$1,250,000 or \$339.67 per square foot of living area, land included, when using the level of assessment for class 2 property of 10% under the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance.

In support of its contention of the correct assessment the board of review submitted information on four comparable sales located within the same assessment neighborhood code as the subject, two of which are on the same block as the subject and one of which is 0.25 of a mile from the subject. The parcels range in size from 17,473 to 26,600 square feet of land area and are improved with 1-story or 1.5-story, class 2-04 homes of masonry or stucco exterior construction ranging in size from 3,456 to 4,183 square feet of living area. The dwellings range in age from 59 to 68 years old. Each home has a basement, three of which have finished area, central air conditioning, one or two fireplaces, and a 2-car or a 2.5-car garage. Two comparables are reported to have other improvements that were not further described. The comparables sold from November 2020 to June 2022 for prices ranging from \$1,130,000 to \$1,500,000 or from \$286.88 to \$413.40 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 appellants contend 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 appellants met this burden of proof and a reduction in the subject's assessment is warranted.

The appellants submitted evidence of a July 2020 sale of the subject and the board of review submitted four comparable sales in support of their respective positions before the Board. The Board gives less weight to the board of review's comparables, three of which are substantially older homes than the subject, two of which were reported to have other improvements that were not described, and one of which is a 1.5-story home compared to the subject 1-story home.

The Board finds the best evidence of market value to be the purchase of the subject property in July 2020 for a price of \$1, 050,000. The appellants provided evidence demonstrating the sale had the elements of an arm's length transaction. The appellants completed Section IV of the appeal petition disclosing the parties to the transaction were not related, the property was sold using a realtor, and the property had been advertised on the open market with the Multiple

Listing Service. In further support of the transaction the appellants submitted a copy of a Closing Disclosure. The Board finds the purchase price is below the market value reflected by the assessment. 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. Based on this record the Board finds the subject property had a market value of \$1,050,000 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: _____

August 19, 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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