



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

APPELLANT: James Swartchild
DOCKET NO.: 22-26944.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 05-18-403-031-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are James Swartchild, the appellant, by attorney Max E. Callahan, of Siegel & Callahan, 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 **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: \$38,071
IMPR.: \$79,429
TOTAL: \$117,500

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 2-story dwelling of frame and masonry exterior construction with 4,510 square feet of living area. The dwelling is approximately 71 years old. Features of the home include a part-crawl space foundation and partial basement with finished area, central air conditioning, two fireplaces, an elevator, and a 2-car garage. The property has a 21,773 square foot site and is located in Winnetka, New Trier 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 overvaluation as the basis of the appeal. In support of this argument the appellant submitted an appraisal estimating the subject property had a market value of \$1,175,000 as of January 1, 2022. The appraisal was prepared by Gregory Nold, a certified general real estate appraiser, for ad valorem tax purposes.

Under the sales comparison approach the appraiser selected six comparable sales located from 0.19 to 0.72 of a mile from the subject. The parcels range in size from 17,400 to 21,780 square feet of land area and are improved with 1-story, 2-story, or 2.5-story homes of frame and masonry, stone and masonry, masonry, or stucco exterior construction. The homes range in size from 3,680 to 5,265 square feet of living area and range in age from 50 to 103 years old. Each home has a basement, five of which have finished area, central air conditioning (with one comparable reported to have partial central air conditioning), one to three fireplaces, and a 2-car or a 3-car garage. Comparable #4 has an inground swimming pool. The comparables sold from May 2020 to November 2021 for prices ranging from \$970,000 to \$1,289,000 or from \$208.93 to \$285.33 per square foot of living area, including land. The appraiser adjusted the comparables for differences from the subject, including a negative \$25,000 adjustment to each comparable not located in a flood plain. The appraiser identified the subject and comparable #2 as located in a flood plain and comparable #2 did not receive the \$25,000 adjustment. The appraisal includes a flood map for the subject's area. After making these adjustments, the appraiser arrived at adjusted prices from \$1,109,500 to \$1,238,000 and concluded a value for the subject of \$1,175,000 as of January 1, 2022. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested a reduction in the subject's assessment to reflect the appraised value conclusion.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" disclosing the total assessment for the subject of \$146,999. The subject's assessment reflects a market value of \$1,469,990 or \$325.94 per square foot of living area, including land, when applying the level of assessment for class 2 property under the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance of 10%.

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. One comparable is on the same block as the subject and one comparable is 0.25 of a mile from the subject. The parcels range in size from 11,605 to 21,840 square feet of land area and are improved with 2-story, class 2-06 homes of masonry, frame, or frame and masonry exterior construction. The dwellings range in size from 2,932 to 3,793 square feet of living area and range in age from 63 to 83 years old. Three homes have a basement, two of which have finished area, and one home has a slab foundation. Each home has central air conditioning, one or two fireplaces, and a 1-car or a 2-car garage. The comparables sold from June 2021 to August 2022 for prices ranging from \$1,325,000 to \$1,700,000 or from \$404.69 to \$507.46 per square foot of living area, including land. Based on this evidence the board of review requested confirmation of the subject's assessment.

In written rebuttal, the appellant argued the appraisal is the best evidence of market value compared to the raw unadjusted sales data presented by the board of review.

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.

The appellant submitted an appraisal 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, due to substantial differences from the subject in dwelling size or foundation type.

The Board finds the best evidence of market value to be the appraisal submitted by the appellant. The Board finds the appraiser selected comparables that are similar to the subject in location and features and sold proximate in time to the assessment date and made reasonable adjustments to the comparables for differences from the subject. The subject's assessment reflects a market value of \$1,469,990 or \$325.94 per square foot of living area, including land, which is above the appraised value conclusion. The Board finds the subject property had a market value of \$1,175,000 as of the assessment date at issue. Since market value has been established 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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