

# FINAL ADMINISTRATIVE DECISION ILLINOIS PROPERTY TAX APPEAL BOARD

APPELLANT: The Conker Trust
DOCKET NO.: 22-48684.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 14-32-110-020-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are The Conker Trust, 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:** \$37,200 **IMPR.:** \$154,809 **TOTAL:** \$192,009

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 masonry exterior construction with 3,528 square feet of living area. The dwelling is approximately 16 years old. Features of the home include a full basement with finished area, central air conditioning, two fireplaces, and a two-car garage. The property has a 2,976 square foot site and is located in Chicago, North Chicago Township, Cook County. The subject is classified as a class 2-78 property under the Cook County Real Property Assessment Classification Ordinance.

The appellant contends assessment inequity concerning the improvement as the basis of the appeal. In support of the inequity argument, the appellant submitted information on five equity comparables located in the same neighborhood code as the subject. The comparables consist of class 2-78 two-story or three-story dwellings of masonry exterior construction which are 29 to 33 years old. The comparables range in size from 3,606 to 3,768 square feet of living area. Each

comparable has a full basement with finished area, central air conditioning, and a two-car garage. Four homes have two or four fireplaces. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$111,938 to \$116,938 or from \$30.60 to \$32.00 per square foot of living area.

Based on this evidence, the appellant requested a reduced improvement assessment of \$109,791 or \$31.12 per square foot of living area reflecting the "median" of the comparables presented.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" disclosing the total assessment for the subject of \$192,009. The subject property has an improvement assessment of \$154,809 or \$43.88 per square foot of living area.

In support of its contention of the correct assessment, the board of review submitted information on four equity comparables located in the same neighborhood code as the subject and same block or ¼ of a mile from the subject. The comparables consist of class 2-78 two-story dwellings of masonry exterior construction that are 10 or 16 years old. The homes range in size from 2,940 to 3,729 square feet of living area. Features include full basements, three of which have finished area, central air conditioning, and a two-car garage. Three comparables each have one or two fireplaces. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$131,183 to \$166,426 or from \$44.62 to \$45.28 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 a total of nine equity comparables to support their respective positions before the Property Tax Appeal Board. The Board has given reduced weight to the appellant's comparables, as these buildings differ greatly in age, being up to twice as old, when compared to the subject's age. The Board has given reduced weight to board of review comparables #1 and #4, due to differences in dwelling size and/or lack of basement finish when compared to the subject.

The Board finds the best evidence of assessment equity in the record to be the board of review comparables #2 and #3, as these homes have the same classification, neighborhood code, story height and somewhat similar dwelling sizes to the subject and are relatively similar to the subject in age at 10 and 16 years old. The homes are similar to the subject in foundation type, air conditioning, and garage capacity. Adjustments to the comparables are necessary for differences in fireplace count when compared to the subject in order to make the comparables more equivalent to the subject. These comparables have improvement assessments of \$137,436 and

\$138,104 or of \$44.68 and \$45.28 per square foot of living area. The subject's improvement assessment of \$154,809 or \$43.88 per square foot of living area is above the best comparables in this record in terms of overall improvement assessment and below the best equity comparables on a per-square-foot of living area basis. After giving due consideration to the subject's larger dwelling size when compared to the subject, the Board finds the subject's higher overall improvement assessment appears to be logical.

The constitutional provision for uniformity of taxation and valuation does not require mathematical equality. The requirement is satisfied if the intent is evident to adjust the taxation burden with a reasonable degree of uniformity and if such is the effect of the statute enacted by the General Assembly establishing the method of assessing real property in its general operation. 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.

Based on this record and after considering appropriate adjustments to the best comparables in the record for differences when compared to 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.

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	Chairman
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Member	Member
Dan De Kinin	Sarah Bobber
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
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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 <u>PETITION AND EVIDENCE</u> 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**

The Conker Trust, 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