



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

APPELLANT: Keith Waaso
DOCKET NO.: 23-23820.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 32-06-103-043-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Keith Waaso, 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: \$4,207
IMPR.: \$14,792
TOTAL: \$18,999

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 2023 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, multi-family building of frame exterior construction with 2,048 square feet of gross building area. The building is approximately 139 years old. Features include a full basement.¹ The property has an 8,415 square foot site and is located in Homewood, Bloom Township, Cook County. The subject is classified as a class 2-11 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, none of which are located within the subject's assessment neighborhood. Property

¹ The parties disagree as to the description of the subject basement. The appellant reported the subject basement is finished, while the board of review reported it was unfinished. However, neither party provided additional evidence to support their description or to refute the description of the other party.

characteristic printouts submitted by the appellant disclosed that the comparables are located in Chicago Heights. The comparables are improved with 1-story or 2-story, class 2-11 multi-family buildings of frame or stucco exterior construction ranging in size from 2,486 to 2,716 square feet of gross building area. The buildings range in age from 110 to 130 years old. Each comparable has a full basement, four of which have finished area. One comparable has central air conditioning. One comparable has a fireplace. Four comparables each have a 1-car or a 2-car garage. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$6,745 to \$7,350 or from \$2.70 to \$2.72 per square foot of gross building area. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested that the subject's improvement assessment be reduced to \$5,550.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" disclosing the total assessment for the subject of \$18,999. The subject property has an improvement assessment of \$14,792 or \$7.22 per square foot of gross building area.

In support of its contention of the correct assessment, the board of review submitted information on four comparables located within the subject's assessment neighborhood. The comparables are improved with 2-story, class 2-11 multi-family buildings of frame or masonry exterior construction ranging in size from 1,500 to 3,676 square feet of gross building area. The buildings range in age from 69 to 135 years old. Each comparable has a full basement. Two comparables each have a 2-car or a 2.5-car garage. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$14,050 to \$18,175 or from \$4.49 to \$9.37 per square foot of gross building area. Based on this evidence, the board of review requested the subject's assessment be confirmed.

Conclusion of Law

The appellant 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 suggested equity comparables for the Board's consideration. The Board gives less weight to the appellant's comparables, which are located in Chicago Heights, unlike the subject, which are located in Homewood. These comparables present additional differences from the subject in design, age, and/or gross building size. The Board also gives less weight to board of review comparables #3 and #4 which differ substantially from the subject in gross building size.

The Board finds the best evidence of assessment equity to be board of review comparables #1 and #2 which are overall more similar to the subject in location, design/class, age, and gross building size. However, each comparable has a garage, unlike the subject. Nevertheless, the two best comparables have improvement assessments of \$16,100 and \$18,175 or \$7.62 and \$9.14 per square foot of gross building area. The subject's improvement assessment of \$14,792 or \$7.22

per square foot of gross building area falls below the two best comparables in this record. After considering adjustments to the two best comparables for differences when compared to the subject, the Board finds the appellant did not demonstrate 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: June 16, 2026



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

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