



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

APPELLANT: James Swinehart  
DOCKET NO.: 23-48470.001-R-1  
PARCEL NO.: 15-31-403-009-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are James Swinehart, the appellant, by attorney Brian S. Maher, of Weis, DuBrock, Doody & Maher 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:** \$8,610  
**IMPR.:** \$64,390  
**TOTAL:** \$73,000

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 dwelling of frame exterior construction with 2,623 square feet of living area. The dwelling is approximately 123 years old. Features of the home include a basement, central air conditioning, and a 2.5-car garage. The property has an 8,400 square foot site and is located in Western Springs, Proviso 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 assessment inequity regarding the improvement as the basis of the appeal. In support of this argument the appellant submitted information on four equity comparables located within the same assessment neighborhood code as the subject. The comparables are improved with 2-story homes ranging in size from 2,343 to 2,856 square feet of living area that are from 66 to 136 years old. Three homes have a basement and one home has a

crawl space foundation. One home has central air conditioning. Each comparable has a 1-car or a 2-car garage. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$52,944 to \$61,701 or from \$20.37 to \$23.65 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested a reduction in the subject's improvement assessment to \$58,729.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" disclosing the total assessment for the subject of \$73,000. The subject property has an improvement assessment of \$64,390 or \$24.55 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 within the same assessment neighborhood code as the subject, two of which are 0.25 of a mile from the subject. The comparables are improved with 2-story homes ranging in size from 2,302 to 2,779 square feet of living area that are from 70 to 96 years old. Each home has a basement and a 1-car or a 2-car garage. Three homes have central air conditioning. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$58,854 to \$81,210 or from \$25.50 to \$29.22 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 record contains a total of eight equity comparables for the Board's consideration. The Board gives less weight to the appellant's comparables #2 and #3 and the board of review's comparable #2, due to substantial differences from the subject in age and/or foundation type.

The Board finds the best evidence of assessment equity to be the appellant's comparables #1 and #4 and the board of review's comparables #1, #3, and #4, which are more similar to the subject in dwelling size, age, location, and some features, although these comparables each have a smaller garage than the subject and three comparables lack central air conditioning that is a feature of the subject, suggesting upward adjustments to these comparables for these features would be needed to make them more equivalent to the subject. These comparables have improvement assessments that range from \$58,184 to \$81,210 or from \$20.37 to \$29.22 per square foot of living area. The subject's improvement assessment of \$64,390 or \$24.55 per square foot of living area falls within the range established by the best comparables in this record. Based on this record and after considering appropriate adjustments to the 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:

April 21, 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

AGENCY

State of Illinois  
Property Tax Appeal Board  
William G. Stratton Building, Room 402  
401 South Spring Street  
Springfield, IL 62706-4001

APPELLANT

James Swinehart, by attorney:  
Brian S. Maher  
Weis, DuBrock, Doody & Maher  
1 North LaSalle Street  
Suite 1500  
Chicago, IL 60602

COUNTY

Cook County Board of Review  
County Building, Room 601  
118 North Clark Street  
Chicago, IL 60602