



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

APPELLANT: Peter Bernson
DOCKET NO.: 23-52133.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 15-13-312-014-0000

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are Peter Bernson, the appellant, by attorney Andreas Mamalakis, of the Law Offices of Andreas Mamalakis in Kenosha; 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: \$3,356
IMPR.: \$29,921
TOTAL: \$33,277

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 1,820 square feet of gross building area. The building is approximately 111 years old. Features of the subject include concrete slab foundation and a 1-car garage. The property has an approximately 4,475 square foot site and is located in Forest Park, Proviso 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 located in the same assessment neighborhood code as the subject property. The comparables are improved with a 1-story, 1½-story or a 2-story class 2-11 multi-family buildings of frame exterior construction ranging in size from 1,696 to 2,077 square feet of gross building

area. The buildings range in age from 103 to 125 years old. Each comparable has a basement and two fireplaces. Four comparables have a 2-car garage. One comparable has central air conditioning. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$20,573 to \$23,802 or from \$10.28 to \$12.13 per square foot of gross building area. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested the subject's improvement assessment be reduced to \$20,584 or \$11.31 per square foot of gross building area.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" disclosing the total assessment for the subject of \$45,999. The subject property has an improvement assessment of \$42,643 or \$23.43 per square foot of gross building area. In support of its contention of the correct assessment the board of review submitted information on four equity comparables located in the same assessment neighborhood code as the subject property. The comparables are improved with a 1½-story or a 2-story class 2-11 multi-family buildings of frame or masonry exterior construction ranging in size from 1,672 to 1,968 square feet of gross building area. The buildings range in age from 94 to 112 years old. Each comparable has a basement, with one having finished area. Each property has a 1-car or a 2-car garage and one comparable has a fireplace. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$27,484 to \$34,658 or from \$16.44 to \$18.07 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 met this burden of proof and a reduction in the subject's assessment is warranted.

The parties submitted nine equity comparables for the Board's consideration. The Board gives less weight to the appellant's comparables #1, #2, #4 and #5 and board of review comparable #2 which are less similar to the subject in design, central air conditioning and/or garage amenity.

The Board finds the best evidence of assessment equity to be the appellant's comparable #3 and board of review's comparables #1, #3 and #4 which are more similar to the subject in location, age, design, gross building size and other features. However, each of these properties has a basement foundation when compared to the subject's concrete slab foundation, suggesting a downward adjustment is needed to make these properties more equivalent to the subject. These comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$23,350 to \$34,656 or from \$11.48 to \$18.07 per square foot of gross building area. The subject's improvement assessment of \$42,643 or \$23.43 per square foot of gross building area falls above the range established by the best comparables in this record. After considering adjustments to the best comparables for differences from the subject, the Board finds the appellant demonstrated with clear and convincing evidence that the subject's improvement was inequitably assessed and a reduction in the subject's assessment is 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

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