



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

APPELLANT: John Cermak
DOCKET NO.: 24-04211.001-R-1
PARCEL NO.: 08-12-416-004

The parties of record before the Property Tax Appeal Board are John Cermak, the appellant, by attorney David Kieta, of Kieta Law LLC, in Winfield, and the DuPage 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 **DuPage** County Board of Review is warranted. The correct assessed valuation of the property is:

LAND: \$97,167
IMPR.: \$220,586
TOTAL: \$317,753

Subject only to the State multiplier as applicable.

Statement of Jurisdiction

The appellant timely filed the appeal from a decision of the DuPage County Board of Review pursuant to section 16-160 of the Property Tax Code (35 ILCS 200/16-160) challenging the assessment for the 2024 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 part two-story and part one-story dwelling of brick exterior construction with 3,497 square feet of living area. The dwelling was constructed in 2006 and is approximately 18 years old. Features of the home include a basement with 1,287 square feet of finished area, 3½ bathrooms, central air conditioning, a fireplace, and an 823 square foot garage. The property has a 37,547 square foot site and is located in Downers Grove, Lisle Township, DuPage County.

The appellant contends assessment inequity concerning the improvement as the basis of the appeal. In support of this argument, the appellant submitted information on six equity comparables located in the same neighborhood code and within .19 of a mile from the subject. The board of review submitted a corrected two-page grid analysis of the appellant's comparable properties along with property record cards in support providing missing and corrected data as to story height, exterior construction, bathroom count, fireplace, and air conditioning features.

Based on the additional data, the comparables consist of one 2.5-story and five part 2-story and part 1-story dwellings of brick, frame or frame and masonry exterior construction which range in age from 25 to 32 years old. The homes range in size from 3,355 to 3,733 square feet of living area. Each home has a basement, three of which have finished areas ranging from 659 to 1,417 square feet. Five homes have 2½, 3 or 3½ bathrooms and comparable #2 has 3 full and 2 half-baths. Each dwelling has central air conditioning, a fireplace, and a garage ranging in size from 526 to 759 square feet of building area. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$163,993 to \$220,455 or from \$48.88 to \$62.11 per square foot of living area. Based on this evidence, the appellant requested a reduced improvement assessment of \$204,633 or \$58.52 per square foot of living area.

The board of review submitted its "Board of Review Notes on Appeal" disclosing the total assessment for the subject of \$317,753. The subject property has an improvement assessment of \$220,586 or \$63.08 per square foot of living area.

In support of its contention of the correct assessment, the board of review submitted information on five comparables located in the same neighborhood code and within .21 of a mile from the subject. The comparables consist of two 2-story and three part 2-story and part 1-story dwellings of frame exterior construction which are 21 to 35 years old. The homes range in size from 3,173 to 3,796 square feet of living area. Each home has a basement, three of which have finished areas ranging from 1,185 to 1,428 square feet. Features include 2½, 3, 3½, or 4 bathrooms, central air conditioning, one or two fireplaces, and a garage ranging in size from 420 to 616 square feet of building area. The comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$213,388 to \$242,325 or from \$63.84 to \$71.10 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 eleven equity comparables in support of their respective positions before the Property Tax Appeal Board. The Board has given reduced weight to appellant's comparables #2, #5 and #6 as well as board of review comparables #2 and #5, due to differences in age and/or story height, when compared to the subject.

The Board finds the best evidence of assessment equity to be appellant's comparables #1, #3, and #4 along with board of review comparables #3 and #4, which are each relatively similar to the subject in location, design, dwelling size, and some features. These comparables range in dwelling size from 3,211 to 3,569 square feet of living area and bracket the subject dwelling of 3,497 square feet. These comparables also necessitate adjustments for differences in finished

basement area, bathroom count, fireplace count, and/or garage size when compared to the subject. These comparables have improvement assessments ranging from \$163,993 to \$227,369 or from \$48.88 to \$70.81 per square foot of living area. The subject's improvement assessment of \$220,586 or \$63.08 per square foot of living area falls within the range established by the best comparables both in terms of overall improvement assessment and on a per-square-foot of living area basis.

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 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.



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:

December 23, 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

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